The Middleburry Campus

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College confronts another crime alert

By Alyssa Thurston
News Editor

Two weeks after it was reported that a Middlebury College student had been threatened at knifepoint while jogging outside, the Department of Public Safety has issued a new campus-wide e mail alerting the College community to another crime.

According to the alert, on the early morning of Monday, Nov. 8, a female student living in Kelly Hall reported that an unknown male had entered her room and touched her, causing her to wake. When she spoke out, the male left the room. She immediately contacted Public Safety to report the incident. Since then, Public Safety has encouraged her to contact the Middlebury Police Department as well.

The victim was able to provide little descriptive information as to the suspect's identity — only that he was a white male, approximately six feet tall and that he appeared to

See intrusion, page 5

Northern Lights streak small town sky

Albert Bitici

Glowing in vibrant greens and reds, the aurora borealis hovered over the Middlebury sky last Sunday evening. In addition to offering a brilliant light show, the event offered a bonus lesson to beginning astronomy students in the Physics department. See page 5 for scientific explanation.

Post-election reaction mixed

By Zoey Burrows
Staff Writer

In the week following the presidential election, some students expressed satisfaction with President George W. Bush's re-election victory, but the predominantly liberal Middlebury campus showed much disappointment and reservation about the next four years.

Immediate reactions to Bush victory

Many students reported some intense emotional reactions to the election, ranging from anger, dejection and helplessness to happiness, contentment and excitement.

The result of the election outcome led liberal student Tim Cavanaugh '05 to feel resigned and detached from politics — yet at the same time, being at Middlebury was somewhat comforting. "For the next four years of Bush's tenure, I'll be on a liberal campus, in a liberal state where 99 percent of anything Bush does won't affect me at all. Selfish, but true," he said. However, others seriously talked of leaving the country for Canada or New Zealand. Many students also felt that John Kerry had conceded the election too soon.

Republicans and Bush supporters, on the other hand, expressed excitement about the next four years. They seemed hopeful for economic recovery, a swift exit and successful governmental transition in Iraq and freedom from terrorism. Still others had no preference for either candidate, or had no particular reactions to the election results.

Feelings, one week later

In the wake of the election, many Democratic students told *The Middlebury Campus* they felt sadness, fear and embarrassment

See students, page 4

Albert Bitici

Cook Commons Dean Dave Edleson discusses the recent election with students.

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Theft on the rise

By Abbie Beane
Associate Editor

Due to a recent rise in theft outside of dining halls, Middlebury College is considering implementing new security precautions. Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette told *The Middlebury Campus* that he has considered beefing up dining hall security if theft continues.

As of Oct. 29, the Department of Public Safety had received eight reports of theft outside of dining halls.

According to Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah, most of the stolen items are personal property or expensive bikes, which, unlike in past years, were not just "borrowed" for a joyride around campus. Additional incidences of theft have included furniture and projectors stolen from dormitories and academic buildings.

Boudah reported that "Freeman International Center [FIC] has seen the biggest increase" in theft. This semester three thefts have taken place in FIC, three in Proctor Dining Hall and two in Ross Dining Hall.

The opportunity for theft arises in the dining halls because students are required to leave their belongings outside of dining rooms before entering.

According to Biette, backpacks are not allowed in the dining halls for safety reasons. Biette said that personal belongings obstruct pathways in the dining rooms and backpacks may knock things over when their owners swing around.

In past years, Proctor Dining Hall was notorious for seeing the most theft, with an average of five items reported stolen per semester, according to Boudah.

Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson pointed out that theft is not a new phenomenon at the College. "We have always had some theft on campus. I think it is both student to student theft, as well as theft [by members of] the off-campus community," she said.

Biette also agreed that " both students here and people from town" may be responsible for committing the thefts.

Some students have expressed surprise at learning that thefts have been occurring at the College at all. Said Tori Adkinson '08, "It has never occurred to me that theft was an issue here."

Thorin Schrieber '05 also expressed astonishment that theft outside the dining halls is becoming more common.

"Theft surprises me here at Middlebury," he said, "but the majority [of students] don't do it. It's those few who do that we need to look out for."

The elimination this year of monitors from outside of the dining halls may be contributing to the theft rise. "They may have served as a deterrent," said Biette of the monitors who had previously observed students entering the dining rooms, ensuring that each student swiped his or her MiddCard.

This practice — which was used to get an accurate count of

See theft, page 4

MIDDBRIEFS

BY ALYSSA THURSTON AND ERI NOSAKA

Newspapers take over

Students recently looking for an empty table in Proctor Dining Hall have faced competition from a very unlikely source — newspapers. Last week in Proctor, stacks of newspapers left behind by students over the course of the semester could be found collected on a single table and its accompanying chairs.

The newspapers, which include *USA Today*, *The New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*, were brought to Middlebury College dining halls this semester by Student Government Association (SGA) President Andrew Jacobi '05 and SGA Director of Institutional Affairs Emily Lam '05, as part of the USA Today Collegiate Readership program. Daily editions of the newspapers are provided free of charge to Middlebury College students in racks located outside the dining areas in both Proctor and Ross.

Recently, however, Jacobi and Lam sent out a campus-wide e-mail to students informing them that "there has been a noticeable increase [in newspapers left behind] in both dining halls in the past week, and dining services is not happy about it." Jacobi and Lam pointed out that "when negotiating where we would place the *USA Today* Collegiate Readership Program racks at the beginning of the semester, dining services was kind enough to allow us to use space outside of both Ross and Proctor, with the only condition being that we would ensure that dining service employees would not have to spend their time cleaning discarded newspapers off of tables." However, with the recent increase in newspapers left behind on tables in the dining halls, Jacobi and Lam have asked fellow students to do their part in returning newspapers to the rack after they are done reading them — alternatively, if the newspaper is no longer usable, students should throw them into a recycling bin.

Community Council discusses party time

Continuing a conversation from last week, the Community Council discussed the possibility of extending the hours of registered parties at the meeting on Monday. J.S. Woodward '05, student co-chair of Community Council, penned a proposal that would allow registered parties to last until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings. The current policy allows parties to last until 1 a.m. on these nights.

One of the main motivating factors behind the proposed extention of party hours is to bring social life back on campus. However, due to this year's increased number of noise complaints and the location of certain dorms, some Council members expressed concern that extended party hours might increase friction with the town.

The Council discussed various ways to amend the policy. One member proposed compiling a list of dorms that would be allowed to hold parties until 1 a.m. and a list of dorms that would be allowed to hold parties until 2 a.m. The Council discussed how the geography of a dorm — whether it be centrally located or on the fringes of the town — would affect its place on these lists.

The discussion then moved back to the original handbook language regarding possible extention of party hours, which currently reads, "Special arrangements for late night programming in residential spaces may only be arranged through the appropriate Commons office."

A Council member suggested that since the opportunity for extending party hours is already built into the current policy, the Council should instead explicitly emphasize that students may have parties that last until 2 a.m. as long as they receive permission from the Commons Dean.

"If we just make it explicit in the handbook and to students that they can have parties past 1 a.m. as long as they receive permission from their Commons Dean, I think our problem will be solved," said Community Council member Zack Snyder '06

However, since this emphasis would give more responsibility to the Commons deans, Dean of College and Professor of American Literature Tim Spears will raise this policy with the Commons deans to garner their opinions on the issue. The policy will then be voted on during next week's Community Council meeting.

CORRECTION

The Middlebury Campus, in the Nov. 4 edition, misnamed Steve Hanley '80 as Steve Heller in the sports article "Frisbee flair finds followers at Midd." *The Campus* regrets this error.

Breakfast with Bannerweb

By Kristin Fraser
Staff Writer

With the end of the semester rapidly approaching, BannerWeb registration for 2005 classes has begun. This week, students began registering for their first-choice Winter Term classes.

As always, a great variety of non-traditional classes are offered for Winter Term, ranging from "The American Negro Spiritual" in the music department to "Lego Robot Design Studio," an interdepartmental class.

Among the classes that filled up quickly are "Civil Liberties and National Security: The Patriot Act," "Food, Culture, and Communication" and most classes in the Studio Art department. Many students are taking a foreign language class, due to Middlebury's requirement that all first-year language students intensively continue their language study during Winter Term, and still others are participating in month-long internships.

"J-term is just a great time to try something different," said Conor O'Neill '07, who is participating in a play during Winter Term that counts as a class. "During the regular semester I have to focus more on my science major."

The actual process of registering on BannerWeb has so far gone well, with no major technical problems.

"Registration has gone very smoothly, like butter," said Alice Rouleau, the associate registrar.

"People are more familiar with the system this year, so I think that really makes a difference."

Many students agree that having experience working with BannerWeb prior to registration reduces uncertainty about the process. Traditionally, the benefit of electronic registration experience has been enjoyed by only sophomores, juniors and seniors.

This year, however, first-years used the online platform to sign up for their first-year seminars prior to arriving at Middlebury in the fall. This system was implemented last year. "It definitely helped to have experience with the system beforehand. I would have been more confused if I hadn't," said Olivia Fisher '08.

Rouleau concurred, "What's good about BannerWeb is that students know immediately whether they've registered for classes. With the old system, it took weeks."

Registration for Winter Term is typically less problematic, since students only register for one class, and many have internships that do not require sign-up on BannerWeb. It is during registration for the full semester terms, when all students except those studying abroad are registering for four classes that most complications arise.

Robert Mohr

Students rise and shine bright and early to register for Winter Term classes.

"Registration has gone very smoothly, like butter. People are much more familiar with the system this year" — Alice Rouleau, associate registrar

"I am a little more nervous for spring registration, since you have to register for more than one class," Fisher said.

Students contend that another negative side to BannerWeb registration is that it is done in real-time. A major complaint is that the process is too stressful — the need to register quickly, coupled with the fact that BannerWeb takes considerably more time to load with inevitable heavy traffic at 7 a.m., makes it nerve-racking.

As Matt Meade '07 said, "[Real-time] is okay, because everyone does have an equal shot, but the fact that everyone has to do it at the same time creates a big problem."

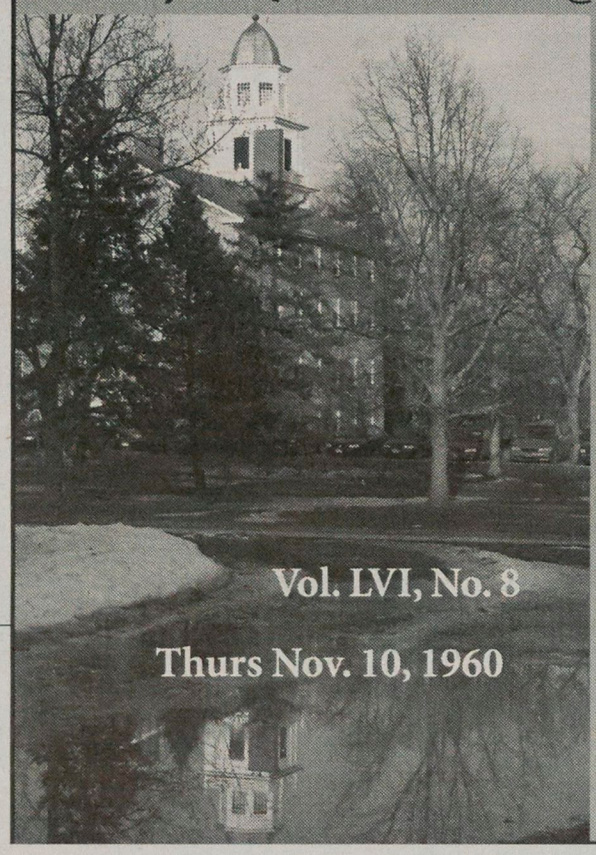
"Last year, everyone on my freshman hall was screaming at once because their computers were going so slow," he said.

Some students, for their part, find nothing positive about BannerWeb. "Honestly, I don't like [BannerWeb], but I don't really know that there's a better alternative," said Val Ullrich '07.

Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Registrar's office have technical support and registrars on-hand while registration is in progress to deal with any problems that may arise. For instance, last year, students in several dorms were locked out for several minutes after registration began.

Similar problems are not anticipated this year, but students are still preparing to endure some anxiety when they register for their spring term classes on Nov. 15.

This Week in Middlebury History



"Complicated electoral process termed costly and ridiculous"

The long voyage is ended.

We have endured the quadrennial period of frenzy, political whing-ding and governmental paralysis.

We lived through primary in-fighting and convention hoopla…and now the grandiose combat over trifles has produced a winner.

It seems that the whole electoral process is over-long, over-complicated and too costly.

It presents a rather bizarre picture to the outside world. "Ridiculous. Too much propaganda," said one Swiss student.

Aside from producing muffled laughter in the rest of the world, election year shenanigans create major problems.

These include foreign policy confusion, candidate exhaustion, and futile discussion between candidates.

As one student said, "Grand campaign spectacles are an American obsession – like big movie productions and long cars."

Or maybe it's human nature to prefer a good show to good sense.

*** The above text was modified, using original language from its 1960 publication. ***

Château theatre staging construction

By Laura K. Budzyna
Staff Writer

Through the cooperative efforts of Charles Nunley, associate professor of French, and Mark Evancho, associate professor of Theater, the Château basement will soon feature a brand-new performance space for foreign language plays and productions.

According to Nunley, who has directed several French plays in the past three years, language departments have struggled to find performance spaces in recent years. While the Hepburn Zoo was originally used in the 1970s by Simon Barenbaum, professor emeritus in French, for performances, it has since been allocated for senior theater majors' use. While both regular and summer language faculty have used such areas as McCullough Social Space, the Grand Salon in the Château, the Gifford Annex and Wright Memorial Theater for arts performances, the language departments have not had their own theater in years.

With the construction of the new Atwater dining hall and the relocation of the language tables to Freeman International Center, the former Château dining room and kitchen closed down at the end of last year. The leftover space was an ideal size for the language departments' goals. Said Nunley, "The intimate setting is perfect for bringing a small group of people together for performances in foreign languages." Although the language departments will have priority use of the theater, English-speaking performers will also have the opportunity to use the space should scheduling allow.

"The intimate setting is perfect for bringing a small group of people together for performances in foreign languages."
— Charles Nunley, associate professor of French

Albert Bitici

The Château Theatre, to be located in the former dining hall and kitchen, is running behind schedule in construction.

Facilities Planning Project Manager Mark Gleason has taken charge of the enormous task of converting an eating space into a theater. The former dining hall area will become a green room and a performance space with stage lights, risers and seating for 56 people. The kitchen will turn into a smart seminar room and a reading room for the French faculty. According to Gleason, it has been a challenge to renovate such an old building — one requiring several modifications to perfect. The low ceiling height of the Château basement has been of special concern, making the placement of theater lights and seating risers problematic. Construction has been behind schedule, and the space will not be furnished until inspectors grant the College an occupancy permit.

While there is still work to be done, Nunley hopes that the theater will be open by January. He is already planning for next April, when he will direct "Le bal des voleurs," a French comedy by playwright Jean Anouilh.

"I am enthusiastic to see that the current program of renovations to the Château as part of Atwater Commons seems designed to take advantage once again of the Château's potential. The creation of a performance space will bolster what promises to be a bright future for the study of foreign languages at the College," said Nunley.

"For those who remember the Château dining hall and kitchen prior to construction," said Gleason, "the transformation of the whole lower level is amazing."

DVD machines in the works

By Ellen Wohlberg
Staff Writer

DVD vending machines will soon be spotted in dorms around campus if a bill is passed at the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate meeting on Nov. 14. Atwater Senator Annie Williams '07 and Brainard Senator Nura Suleiman '07 have been working on a proposal to bring the vending machines to campus.

"We basically have a contract with the company, we just need the school to sign off on it," said Suleiman.

The vending machines, supplied by DVD Direct, can hold up to 350 video games or anything on DVD and are restocked weekly with new arrivals. Students use a credit or debit card to "rent" a DVD, and late fees are applied if it is not returned within a given time.

If the DVD is not returned within 10 days, the student will be charged full price, although never more than $24.99. While the cost to rent the DVDs is still being negotiated with the company, "[the price] will be extremely reasonable," said Williams. "They often have promotional deals, especially in the first few weeks. It would definitely be under $5."

Courtesy

DVD rental machines like this one could soon make an appearance on campus.

Similar DVD machines have proven popular at Tufts University and Babson College and are currently being installed at the University of California school system. The machines must be placed in buildings that are open 24 hours a day, so they would most likely be placed in first-year dorms, said Suleiman.

"They'll definitely be placed in central locations so it will be easy for students to use them," Williams said.

Student Co-Chair of Community Council JS Woodward '06 said little risk is incurred by the school since the machines cost nothing to install. "From where I sit right now, I don't see a good reason for it not to pass," said Woodward.

The machines are hooked up to an Internet line so students can check to see what DVDs are available.

"Especially in the winter, it's really nice not to have to walk into town to rent or return a DVD," said Williams. "And it's also good for students who make impulsive decisions, because you can rent them at any time."

If the bill is passed, the two senators hope to acquire five machines, one for each commons. They would most likely be installed by Winter Term, if not sooner.

"[The bill] has a strong backing from all the senators," said Williams, "We just have to make sure it's approved."

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY JASON SIEGLE

SANTIAGO, CHILE — I was told before coming to Santiago that I should avoid going into parks at night for my own safety. I imagined that meant I was in danger of being a victim of violence, but I've found that there is a much greater danger: tripping over couples making out on the grass.

Yes, it's a very kissy country. Everywhere you go, you can see couples kissing while walking down the street, sitting on a park bench or lying on the grass.

The Chileans are romantics at heart, and their sentiment does not decrease with age. You are just as likely to see a couple of middlescents necking in the park as you are to see teenagers.

Is it passion? Is it that uncontrollable, I've-got-to-have-you-right-here-right now urge that attracts two sets of lips like magnets? Do the Chileans have a sex drive unequaled in the United States?

I tend to doubt it. There is a reluctance to talk about sex here that rivals that of the States (sometimes even worse!). Though some nudity in advertisements is acceptable, discussion of nontraditional sexual and gender practices (such as any practices associated with the queer community or the 42nd President of the United States) is still taboo — though increasingly less so). Plus, they tend to kiss with their eyes open (though that could be to watch out for people stepping on them).

What is it, then, that drives people out into the streets and parks for kissing — and in particularly wooded areas, a little more?

The answer lies in space. Not outer space, of course, but available space. Many Chileans live with their parents all through college, and well beyond.

There are not enough homes to house everyone, and even if there were, people simply cannot afford to live on their own. The richest country per capita in South America still only belongs to the middle class of the world.

Thus, out of respect for their parents, the young leave the house to hang out (and make out) in the park.

That explains why the young do it, but what about the adults? I suspect that it is not because of space, but rather because of habit.

So when you walk through the parks in Santiago, be sure to keep your eyes open for the kissing couples. After all, they are keeping their eyes open for you.

Courtesy

Students hold mixed opinions on Bush's re-election

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at the election results. Colin Kikuchi '05 said he was "concerned that the Bush Administration will take this election as a mandate to continue the regime of public overspending, environmental deregulation and neo-conservative economic policy." Cavanaugh worried about Bush's "conservative Christian ideals infringing on the policy of separation of church and state, like abortion and gay marriage."

Other students expressed concern that the Republican majority in the Senate and House of Representatives would render checks and balances futile, and would allow for the passing of controversial legislation.

Many students, even if they supported the losing candidate, agreed that the country must move on and look towards the future. Cole Dovey '06 said that he is "coming to grips with the country's decision. I'm consoled by the fact that President Bush won the popular vote this time."

Thoughts on Kerry's concession speech

Most students interviewed believed that Kerry's concession speech was gracious and conciliatory. On the other hand, Curtis Ekstrom '08 thought "Kerry's concession speech seemed anti-climactic and dull."

As for Kerry himself, some felt that he was not the ideal Democratic candidate to run against the incumbent Bush, citing upbringing and limited career achievements as potential reasons for his loss. Claire Polfus '08 said, "The Democratic party has to learn that the individual does matter, and that the average Midwesterner cannot identify with Eastern old-money candidates like John Kerry."

Anthony Santolup '06 added, "Kerry was an uninspiring candidate. It is pathetic that he couldn't oust Bush from the White House." Most agreed that the Democrats will have to drastically change their strategy in order to have a chance of winning the 2008 election.

Anticipation of Bush's plans for the next 4 years

Across the Middlebury campus, student opinion on the direction of the country is polarized — most students fall either on the side of extreme confidence or of hesitation.

Claire Polfus '08 was very concerned about Bush's plans, saying, "With control over the Court and Senate, and no reelection worries, it's scary what he could do to the environment, foreign relations, women's rights and gay rights."

Democratic students were also greatly concerned about topics ranging from potential future Supreme Court justice appointments to further Iraq policy. Patrick Sedney '08 was especially worried about the appointment of new conservative-leaning Supreme Court justices and said that they "could reverse all the progress that has been made for civil liberties over the last 50 years."

On the future of the war in Iraq, students remained particularly anxious. Curtis Ekstrom '08 said, "[What worries me] most about Iraq is the continued assumption that 'freedom'—one of the most ambiguous words in [the English] language—will somehow magically erase anti-American sentiments." Ryan Cohen '07 had a more philosophical take on the matter, saying, "I believe that the much vaunted 'war on terror' is little more than a red herring."

Several male students expressed concern about being drafted. First-year Tom Conley said of Bush, "Hopefully he won't [be] going [and] 'liberating' anyone else with my life."

Other student concerns include trade relations between Canada and the United States, mandatory universal vaccination, and the environment. Another topic of contention concerns potential future invasions of countries. Vanling Go '06 is "worried how [Bush] will deal with Iran."

Opinions on Election-day Logistics

While the President won re-election by a percentage outside the margin of error, many students remained skeptical about the national voting system. Causes for concern stemed from the states' different election voting rules, different means of voting ranging from punch ballots to lever machines, and the course of action in the event of a tie. Some have proposed a complete abolition of the electoral college, and others urge the implementation of Instant Runoff Voting as an alternative to the current system.

Primary concerns included the idea of provisional ballots in Ohio and long voting lines that may have discouraged some citizens from voting. Leslika Garoo '05 said that she was worried because many of her friends were "turned away from the polls in the states where they registered through school." Andrei Makarov '05 countered, "I think for the most part it was fair, but good old Jeb [Bush] helped out a lot [in securing Bush's victory in Florida]." Nevertheless, most students agreed that, in comparison to 2000 Presdiential Election, this year's election seemed fair.

Commentary from Assistant Professor of Political Science Bertram Johnson

Johnson identifies himself as a "political scientist," abstaining from any party label.

The Campus: Were you pleased with Bush's victory?

Bertram Johnson: While some political scientists may not be personally pleased with Bush's election, the profession has done much better at predicting the outcome of the election this year than in 2000. Out of seven established forecasting models, six predicted a Bush victory (as early as last January). The average prediction for Bush's percent of the popular vote was 53.8 percent — a little high, but not too far off.

The Campus: What was your immediate response after learning of the results on Wednesday?

Johnson: Presidents don't tend to accomplish as much in the second term as they do in their first. But this is a president with united Republican government, an unusual amount of loyalty from his allies in Congress, and a very ambitious agenda. I'll be interested to see whether attempts at Social Security reform and new tax initiatives will be successful. If a split develops in the Republican Party, it will probably arise in the Senate over social issues (as opposed to tax policy or other economic issues).

The Campus: How are you feeling now and why? Optimistic about the direction of the country? Pessimistic? If you watched Kerry's concession speech, what did you think of it?

Johnson: I'm always optimistic about the direction of the country. I'm pleased that this election was decided quickly and that the outcome was clear — Kerry did a good job of conceding graciously. There is going to be a period of reassessment in the Democratic Party, particularly involving the "moral values" issue. In my opinion, the press has overemphasized this issue. Only about a fifth of voters cite it as the number one issue, and these are, for the most part, core Republican voters — not swing voters. Democrats must instead focus on winning over voters who felt that the economy wasn't so bad as to require a change in leadership, and that Bush would do a better job of fighting terrorism.

The Campus: Were you pleased with the logistics of the election? Did any swing-state's election-day practices specifically please or worry you?

Johnson: While I find the anecdotal accounts of misinformation and demobilization efforts in certain areas to be troubling, I think the most important story of this election is the reverse: high levels of grassroots mobilization by parties and affiliated interest groups. Turnout appears to have increased to about 55 percent of voting age population — not stellar, but the highest in a dozen years.

Theft in the dining halls a persistent problem

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the number of students eating in a particular dining hall each day — was abandoned this year.

"People seemed to think it was too much of an inconvenience to pull out their card and swipe," said Biette

In search of solutions to the problem of theft in the dining halls, Biette has recently begun an extensive dialogue with other colleges and universities on the security options available to Middlebury College.

The University of New Hampshire in Durham, for instance, has installed free, coin-activated lockers where students can safely store their belongings while dining, as well as video cameras to catch any thievery. "But this may change the look of Middlebury," said Biette, "and be architecturally unpleasing."

Students seem to agree. Liza Humes '07 shook her head at the idea of lockers in the dining halls, remarking, "I feel safe leaving my stuff outside the dining halls."

Jason Lockhart '05 is also among the majority who are averse to the prospect of lockers and video cameras. "I would hate to see lockers here," he said.

"I didn't come to one of the least crime-ridden places to be surrounded by lots of security [devices]. I didn't like seeing the dorm lockdown system come a couple of years ago either," he said.

Besides installation of lockers, other security options include the simple procedure of allowing students to bring their backpacks into the dining halls. Dartmouth College, SUNY-Brockport and Brown University all follow this practice and report no theft problems.

According to an e-mail sent to Biette, Bowdoin College, often compared to Middlebury College in terms of size and campus atmosphere, suggests that its students "clearly mark their personal items," so that belongings are not stolen unknowingly. They also encourage them to have the serial number of their laptop safely stowed away in their dorm room.

SUNY-Morissville, also similar in size and composition to Middlebury College, has installed lockers like those at the University of New Hampshire and recommended the strategy to Biette as a means of deterring ongoing theft.

In order to prevent more thefts from occurring, Biette encourages students to exercise common sense.

"Don't leave laptops, valuables, passports, wallets or that kind of thing lying around," he said. "You might have been raised right, but not everyone was raised like you."

But even with the increase in theft, Middlebury remains on the low end of college theft problems. Hanson pointed out that overall, "I think that we are a really safe campus if students take the normal precautions."

"I would hate to see lockers here. I didn't come to one of the least crime-ridden places to be surrounded by lots of security [devices]. I didn't like seeing the dorm lockdown system come a couple years ago either."

—Jason Lockhart '05

SNOW MAKES ITS DEBUT

Julia Randall

Quickly melting on its arrival, snow made a brief but welcome fall on Middlebury's campus. Last year snow arrived in October, its presence was noticeably late this year. Not enough to make snowmen yet!

Northern Lights light up Midd sky

By Benjamin Salkowe
NEWS EDITOR

The Middlebury sky was aglow in colorful green and red lights the night of Nov. 7, as the aurora borealis (commonly called "northern lights") dazzled and impressed observers.

"Northern lights are really space weather," explained Gamaliel Painter Bicentennial Professor of Physics Frank Winkler. Winkler, who teaches astronomy in the Physics department, took advantage of the phenomenon to offer a bonus lesson to students in his Introduction to the Universe course.

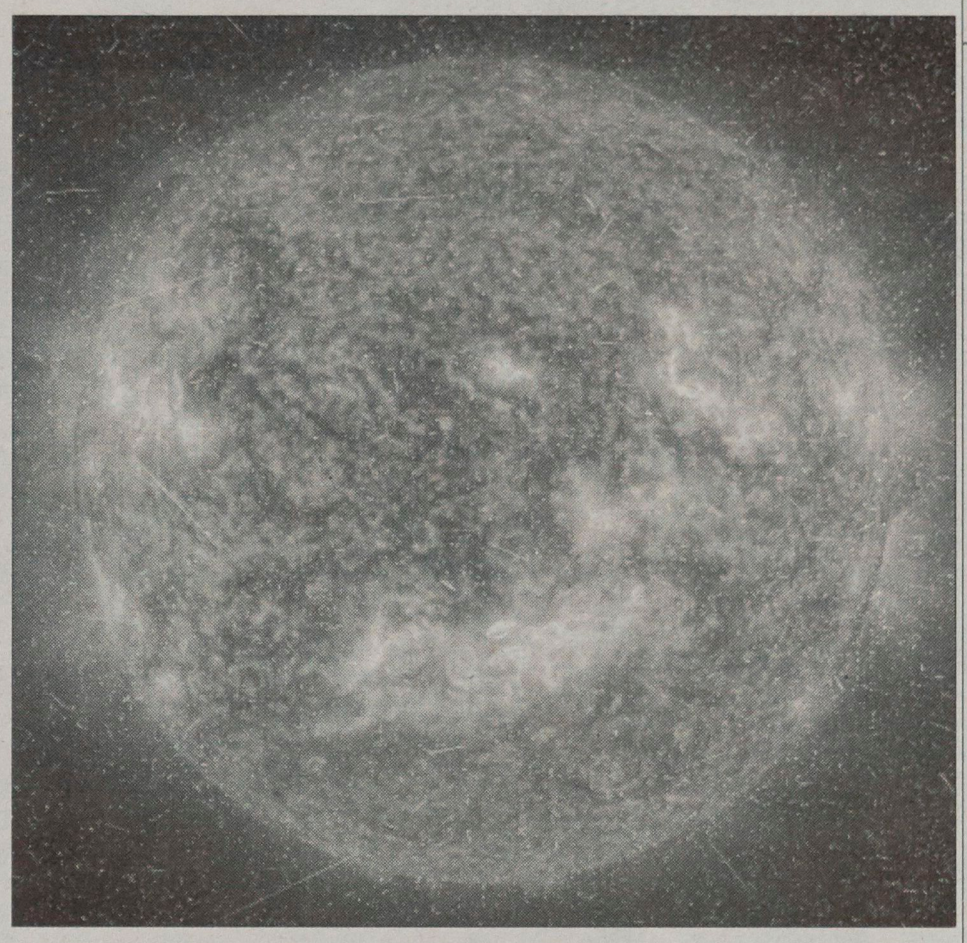
According to Winkler, solar storms on the surface of the sun emit bursts of electrons and protons that can shoot out directly toward the Earth. When these electrons and protons do reach the Earth, they spiral along the lines of the Earth's magnetic field and enter the atmosphere near the poles.

When these particles collide with atoms in the Earth's upper atmosphere, the collisions produce the colorful lights that we see, similar to the way charges and gases collide to produce light in a neon sign.

"On any normal night there are northern lights, but mainly at higher latitudes," said Winkler. "When there's a burst [of protons and electrons] we who live farther south get a good display."

The colors seen on Sunday evening are characteristic of elements that make up the atmosphere. Both the green light and the more uncommon red resulted from oxygen particles. The red light was produced higher up in the atmosphere where there is less density, making it more difficult to see.

Unfortunately, predicting the occurrence of northern lights is extremely difficult. "They're slightly more likely in the fall and spring, when things are oriented right, but the key event is for the sun to eject a burst of particles from one of these strong storms on its surface," said Winkler.



Courtesy

Solar storms on the surface of the sun (shown above) are responsible for the aurora borealis.

The likelihood of northern lights occurring is also affected by the solar cycle, a roughly 11-year-long cycle of the rising and falling of the number of sunspots, which are areas of high magnetic fields on the sun. The sunspot maximum last occurred just a few years ago in 2002.

The last large northern lights display seen from Middlebury was last fall, when a deep red glow lit up the evening sky and many students migrated outside to view the colors.

Dorm room intrusion reported

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be of college age. Furthermore, he had short, dark, possibly curly hair, and was wearing a short-sleeved shirt.

The offense occurred at 3:30 a.m., when the dorms are locked down and accessible from the outside only by swiping an access card, presenting a strong possibility that the perpetrator was a Middlebury College student. However, Director of Public Safety and Associate Dean of Student Affairs Lisa Boudah stated that it is unknown whether the trespasser was a student or an outsider to the community.

According to Boudah, there are several possible scenarios as to how the offender was able to enter the building. "Buildings are only locked at night [from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.], so someone could enter the building during the hours when they are open and hang out in there until later at night."

Other possibilities include the offender entering the building after lockdown occurred by following behind someone else with an access card, or finding a door that might have been propped open and thus entering without authorization.

While the purpose of the offense is currently unknown, Boudah said that incidents such as this can also arise due to "mistaken entry" — sometimes students walking down a hallway in their dorms, where all doors can sometimes look similar, will confuse another student's room for their own or for that of a friend.

The last time a similar incident occurred at the College was in October 2002, when not one but several female students living in Gifford Hall reported that an unknown male had entered their rooms in the early morning hours without permission. Public Safety eventually determined, relying on information gathered from multiple witnesses, that the offender was a Middlebury College student. The student has since left the College.

To prevent further incidents, Boudah stressed the importance of students and other College community members immediately contacting Public Safety if they see anything suspicious or out of the ordinary on campus or in the residence halls. Furthermore, as a general rule, students should lock their doors while inside their rooms at night — even while still awake, and especially when going to bed — to ensure their maximum safety.

Anyone with any information regarding the incident, or who might know the identity of the trespasser, is asked to contact either Boudah or Assistant Director of Public Safety Melody Perkins at 443-5911, or the Middlebury Police Department at 388-3191.

public safety log

NOVEMBER 2, 2004 TO NOVEMBER 8, 2004

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
11/204	Unknown	Burglary	Concession Stand	Alumni Stadium	No Suspects
11/3/04	8:35 p.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
11/3/04	8:30 p.m.	Drug Violation	Bongs	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
11/4/04	Unknown	Vandalism	Smashed Pumpkins	McCardell Bicentennial Hall	No Suspects
11/4/04	4:30 p.m.	Theft	Backpack	McCullough Student Center	No Suspects
11/4/04	7:00 p.m.	Theft	Bicycle	Le Chateau	No Suspects
11/5/04	8:55 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Starr	Referred to Commons Dean
11/5/04	8:53 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Starr	Referred to Commons Dean
11/5/04	10:30 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Milliken	Referred to Commons Dean
11/5/04	2:45 a.m.	Agency Assist	Possession of False ID's	Harnest House	Referred to Commons Dean
11/5/04	10:33 p.m.	Vandalism	Wooden Chair	Brackett (Tavern)	Referred to Commons Dean
11/6/04	12:41 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Brooker	Referred to Commons Dean
11/8/04	3:30 a.m.	Unlawful Trespass		Kelly	Open

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY ALYSSA THURSTON

Bush and higher education

While President George W. Bush has promised to increase student financial aid in order to improve student access to college, experts say it is unlikely that Bush will implement any drastic change in higher education policy in the short term. Over the course of the presidential campaign, Bush pushed an "Agenda for America," in which he planned enhancing Pell Grants and AmeriCorps Education Awards, as well as creating incentives for states to make it easier for students to transfer credits earned at community colleges to four-year institutions.

David Copley, chairman of the Pennsylvania State Federation of College Republicans, said it was too early to predict if or when Bush would move on educational issues. As university tuition rates continue to rise faster than inflation, a "fine tune" of student grants is probable.

Bush's foreign policy, however, may also affect another constituency within higher education — foreign students. "In the last four years there has been a greater restriction on ease of entry from [foreign] students into the United States," said Senior Vice President of the American Council on Eduation Michael Baer.

— Uwire.com

Judaic studies popular

Interest in Judaic Studies has grown, particularly among non-Jewish students, at institutions of higher education across the country.

At City College in New York City, of the 250 students enrolled in Jewish Studies classes, some 95 percent of them are not Jewish.

The more than 100 colleges and universities offering Jewish Studies include such Catholic institutions as Fordham University, the Quaker-based Earlham College in Indiana and public ones like the University of Kentucky and Portland State in Oregon that are far from any sizable Jewish community.

This explosion in Jewish Studies reflects a combination of forces — the roots-consciousness that gave rise to many different ethnic studies programs in the late 1960s, the emergence of Jewish family foundations eager to endow the programs and the growing popularity of Jewish parochial schools covering the elementary and secondary grades.

In terms of the motivations behind expanding Jewish studies programs, "Number one was the desire to reach Jewish kids," said Judith Baskin, president of the Association for Jewish Studies. "Number two was to demonstrate that Jewish studies has a place in [an] academic curriculum as part of Western civilization. [It would also] increase tolerance if non-Jewish students learn about the Jewish experience."

— *The New York Times*

Coed dorm suites at NYU

Starting next fall, male and female undergraduates at New York University (NYU) will be able to share dorm suites. Coed, two-bedroom apartments in several residence halls will be open to up to 40 upperclassmen in a deal worked out by administrators and representatives of NYU's student housing government.

"The proposal was endorsed by every residence hall student government, and it appeared to have the overwhelming support of the undergraduate student body," said Marc Wais, vice president for student affairs. While the suites will be coed, meaning males and females could share bathrooms, bedrooms will stay same-sex.

Institutions such as Middlebury College and Swarthmore College already offer coed housing, but few large universities have approached the issue. One of NYU's reasons for wanting coed housing was to address concerns by some gay and lesbian students who felt uncomfortable living with students of the same sex. But coed housing could also allow straight couples to live together, which had previously been impossible for undergraduates on campus.

If administrators receive positive feedback, the University will likely expand the options to include more students and residence halls.

— UWire.com

localnews 100

6
INDEPENDENT VERMONT?
A VERMONT GROUP WORKS TO FREE THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE

7
ATTENTION, SERIOUS SKIERS
NEW SKI GROUP GIVES TRAINED ATHLETES ANOTHER OPTION

Vermonters seek secession from U.S.

By Katherine Doorley
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

An e-mail circulating the internet in the days after the election depicts the so-called "blue states" joined in a new country with the Canadian provinces. While the desire to secede from the Union may be a new feeling for many Americans, a group of Vermont residents has been proposing this same idea for several years. The Second Vermont Republic is "a peaceful, democratic, grassroots solidarity movement committed to the return of Vermont to its rightful status as an independent republic as was the case in 1791 and to support Vermont's future development as a separate sustainable nation-state."

According to the group's platform, the organization's membership is open to all those who support political independence, direct democracy, sustainability, economic solidarity, quality education, wellness, nonviolence and a foreign policy where they "favor negotiations with Maine, New Hampshire and the four Atlantic provinces of Canada, possibly to create a New Atlantic Confederacy — a nation about the size of Denmark." In addition, the group claims to consider similar negotiations with Quebec or membership in the United Nations.

Members and supporters of the Second Vermont Republic movement held a conference in Middlebury between Nov. 5th and 7th to discuss two resolutions relating to Vermont's independence. The first of these amendments would be to declare Jan. 15, 1777 Vermont independence day, and the second proposes that Vermont revert to its status as an independent republic, which it was between 1777 and 1791. According to the conference's press release, "the underlying principle of the conference is that the United States has become ungovernable and unsustainable. If that is indeed the case, then do we go down with the Titanic or seek other alternatives." In the eyes of the group's supporters, the best alternative is to secede from the Union.

Courtesy

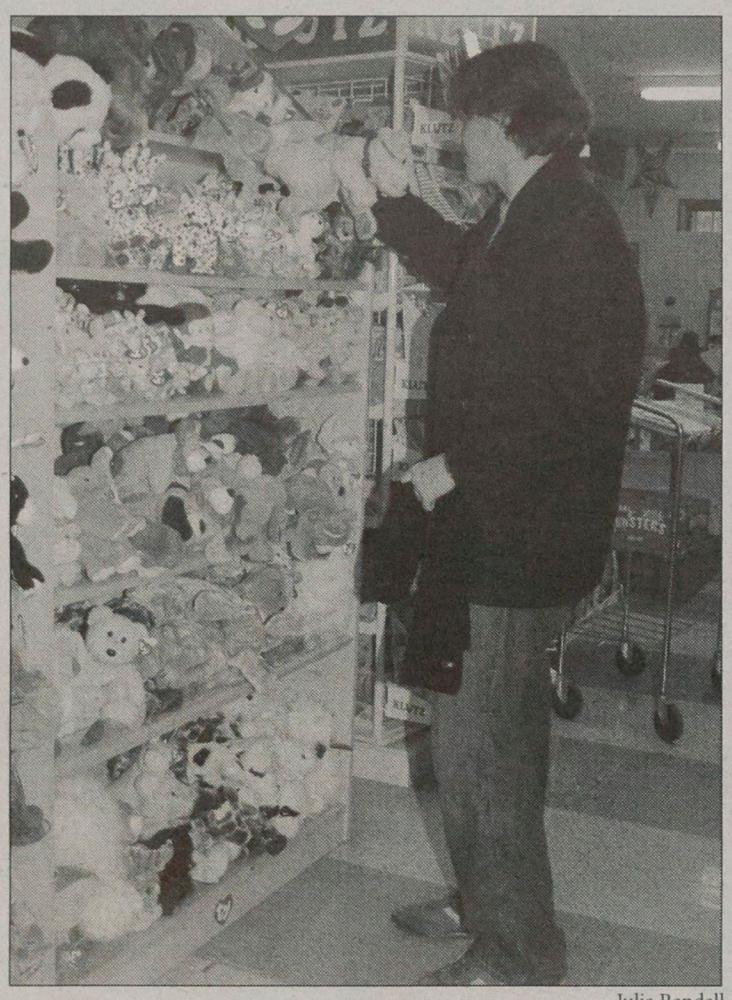
Supporters of the Second Vermont Republic gather in front of the State House to support Vermont's secession from the United States.

Members in the group argue that the way of life in the United States is no longer compatible with the idea of self-preservation. "Since Vermont became the 14th state of the Union, the United States government has become too big, too centralized, too powerful, too intrusive, too materialistic, too impersonal, too grasping, too militarized, too imperialistic, too violent, too undemocratic, too corrupt and too unresponsive to the needs of individual citizens and small communities," claims the group's website.

James R. Hogue and Thomas Naylor, two of the Republic's strongest supporters, have drafted a declaration of independence for Vermont in response to the argument that "the United States is no longer a sustainable nation-state — not politically, economically, agriculturally, socially, morally, culturally, nor environmentally." Their declaration is modeled after that of the United States with a preamble stating, "this is a call for Vermont to reclaim its soul, and, in so doing provide an alternative to a nation obsessed with money, power, size, speed and greed." The declaration then proceeds to list the wrongs committed by the United States government, much as Thomas Jefferson listed the wrongs committed by Great Britain against the colonies in the original Declaration of Independence. Among the wrongs listed in the Vermont Declaration of Independence are that the United States has created an unsustainable economy and that Vermont has been dragged into the "quagmire of affluenza, technomania, megalomania, globalization and imperialism by the United States government in collaboration with corporate America." Additionally, Hogue and Naylor list limited protection for cottage industries against the forces of globalization and perceived civil rights abuses as a result of the War on Terror. They also claim that the United States has, in their opinion, violated international law numerous times in this century with its invasions of nations such as Iraq, Grenada and Afghanistan, and despite the fact that Vermont has no military bases or strategic military purpose, they are put at risk by remaining in the Union. For all of these reasons, the founders believe that it is in Vermont's best interests to leave the Union permanently.

In summary of his views, and in support of the idea that now is the time for Vermont to strike out on its own, Naylor offers his opinion. "No empire has ever survived the test of time — Greek, Roman, Chinese, Ottoman, French, British or Soviet. Is there any reason to believe that the United States will prove to be an exception to the rule?"

A TOWN TREASURE



Julia Randall

With the possibility of a new Wal-Mart moving into Middlebury, Ben Franklin could see fewer shoppers depending on the town's decision. **See the Center Spread for more on the town's influx of new chain stores.**

VERMONT by the the numbers

0: Number of professional sports teams that are currently in Vermont.

1783: Year that Vermont's first newspaper, the *Vermont Gazette*, was published, in Bennington.

5: The average number of weeks of the Vermont maple syrup season.

1984: Year that Madeleine Kunin was elected as the first woman governor of Vermont.

Sources: ipl.org, vermontpublictv.org, vermontmaple.org

New ski team hones fresh athletes

By Harrison Kahn
Staff Writer

At a school with top-notch athletic programs where athletes are recruited from around the country, is there anything a Midd-kid can do to increase his chances of gaining a walk-on to one of these teams? Well, luckily for skiers, the Middlebury Ski Club will now be offering a new race-training program for experienced college-age alpine skiers starting this coming winter.

The private non-profit organization was founded in 1982 with the goal of promoting interest in ski racing among Middlebury area youth. Participants, ranging from six-year-olds to college students, work with coaches to develop their skills as racers. The ski club trains at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl, and provides a service similar to programs offered at almost every New England ski area.

The new program is not for beginning or even intermediate skiers. Their press release states that the training is suited "for athletes who are accomplished and committed ski racers who are not currently racing for the College team, but wish to pursue training on the same mountain as the Middlebury College alpine team — Racers train seriously and are eligible to compete in all United States Ski Association (USSA) races including slalom, giant slalom and super G by joining the Vermont Alpine Racing Association (VARA) and USSA."

Jamie Hutchins, a spokesman for the organization, adds that one of the primary purposes of the group is to train those who did not make the cut for the Middlebury College alpine ski team, but still wish to ski at a competitive level. The club has coached college students in the past, but Hutchins says, "We have never made such an effort as we are this winter."

Albert Bitici
Skiers in the new Middlebury Ski Club will endure serious training in hopes of making the Middlebury Alpine Ski Team.

"I think it could be a valuable option for some skiers, depending on what your expectations are when you come here."

— Derek Shields '05

Skiers in USSA races are generally at a lower skill-level than those on the Middlebury College team, and the ski club also encourages students to join who did not intend to try out for the alpine race team, but have some racing experience.

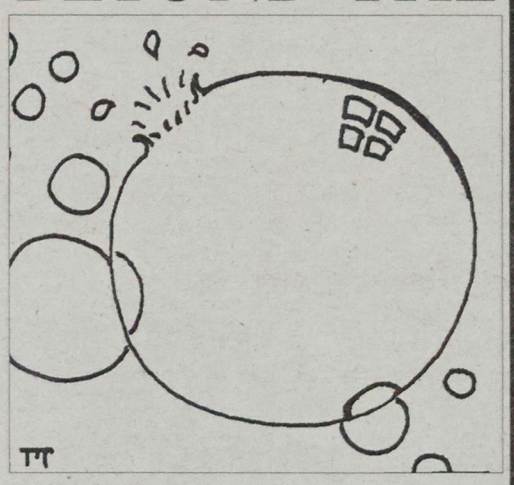
Middlebury Ski Club Head Coach Ric Mackey, former coach of the Bates College ski team and brother of Snow Bowl Manager Peter Mackey, will provide training. The program does not offer a traveling coach. Skiers meet on weekends and during holidays. Joining the club costs $100 and there is a $400 fee due before the start of training.

Coach of the college alpine team, Forest Carey, acknowledged that, "We have lots of good skiers trying out, and it takes a very high-level athlete to make the team as a freshman." In the past, being denied a spot on the roster meant the end of that student's racing career. Many of the team's racers came to Middlebury as recruits or with the intention of skiing for the College team.

The new program offered by the Ski Club is suited for students who were unsure of whether or not they would make the team, and then didn't. Derek Shields '05, a skier on the Panther alpine team said, "I think it could be a valuable option for some skiers, depending on what your expectations are when you come here."

The Middlebury team annually tries to stretch their resources to accommodate as many skiers as possible. Last winter 30 students made the cut, but Carey considers that number to have been "a lot." He admits that the new program is for individual skiers to maintain their skills, but not necessarily to make next year's lineup. "It's not really a development for the team, but for the sport."

BEYOND THE BUBBLE



BY CLAIRE NIELSON AND LISIE MEHLMAN

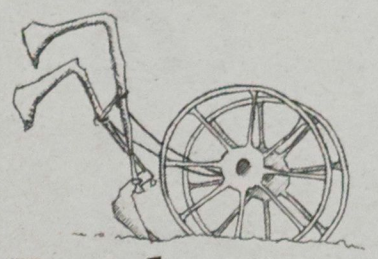
This week, your always immensely serious and investigative Beyond the Bubble reporters ventured further beyond the bubble than ever before. We ventured beyond the American borders into that foreign and strange land known as Canada, filled with sketchy boys and far too many strip clubs.

Two cars full of sophomore girls looking for a good time in Montreal joined us on our quickie getaway weekend. We checked into our hotel, Les Chateaux Royals, scurried to "put on our faces" and donned our high heeled and pointy-toed shoes that usually remain covered by Birks and Danskos in our closets at Midd. Feeling all dolled up, we entered the swanky Shed Café. This is the restaurant of all restaurants for people like us — unsophisticated, loud and under 21 — who seek a sophisticated and loud restaurant where they can drink legally. Sex on the Beaches flowed as the in-house DJ complied with our request that he play "Call On Me." When the song came on, we all got a little too excited and people began to stare at us. As it was a friend's birthday, we all received free desserts and free shots, though not in that order. Our friend had friends in town, so we planned to meet them at Club Super Sex. You might think that we had predicted this would be a strip club with a name like Club Super Sex. But, no, we hadn't. That was interesting.

We cabbed it back to St. Catherine's St., where we entered The Vatican, a smoke filled dance bar on one level and apparently a poker bar on the other. We decided to play Blind Man's Bluff, a game that, obviously, Lisie being her usual uncultured-about-drinking-games self, did not know how to play. Claire was kind enough to guide her in the ways of the world. This game required us to all hold our cards up to our foreheads. Lisie thought this was odd, as did the rest of the bar-goers, who all began to stare. This seems to be a common trend in our nighttime outings.

Poker never got old, but talking to sketchy Canadian boys did. However, Claire seemed to enjoy partaking in a bit of witty banter with a Scotsman she met, so we had to drag her out of the Vatican. Next, we hopped in a cab to St. Lauren Street. Lisie got to put her French to good use with the cab driver while Claire rolled her eyes and made fun of her terrible accent. Our destination was The Lodge, where we danced to a bizarre compilation of Jock Jams songs and Real McCoy hits. Lisie was ill-clad for the night. No one told her it was going to snow, and she was wearing only her tank top. The nice Canadian boys were sure to continuously offer her their coats and scarves. Clearly, that made her feel awkward. All the boys we met were dodgy and insisted on talking about politics, particularly about "Jed" Bush. This was strange and encouraged us to just keep dancing. After "beaucoup de dancing," we returned to our Chateaux and slept like Canadian royalty.

The next morning, we dined at only the classiest of diners. We strolled the streets of Canada and window-shopped. Then, we found a store having a huge lingerie sale. We had to stop. Clearly we bypassed the lingerie and headed straight for the comfy pants section. We spent way too long in this store and by the time we finally exited, we realized we had best be off if we wanted to make it back in time for our usual Proctor dinner. On the way home, Claire made fun of Lisie for feeling the need to explain that the street signs reading "Est" indicated East and that "Nord" indicated North. We listened to a lot of Celine Dion, which is kind of embarrassing. We also made a pit stop at Starbucks, and Lisie tripped on her own two feet while walking in, which was also kind of embarrassing. Back to Midd we trekked…



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

How about a new reality TV series? "When Farm Animals Attack." *Lock your doors. Hold tight to your loved ones. The Pigman cometh.*

That's right. The Pigman. You haven't heard of him? Well, that's not surprising. Lake Champlain's resident USC (Unidentified Swimming Creature) Champ seems to get all of the attention. Yet there are more mysterious creatures lurking in the nooks and crannies of the Green Mountains.

A cousin to the illustrious Bigfoot has made Vermont his home. In 1971, a farmer in Northfield, Vt. went to investigate some strange noises coming from his backyard one night. He turned on his outside light and peered out the kitchen window, expecting to see a raccoon or plump squirrel sifting through his garbage. Instead he met the gaze of a man-sized figure lurking along the edges of the yellow light. His body was covered in white hair and he had the facial features of a pig. A few seconds later, the being darted back into the shadows. A few days passed before the Pigman was spotted again, this time by a group of students outside of the high school during a dance. Reports are vague as to who ran away faster — the students or the creature — but both quickly left the scene. Since these initial sightings, the Pigman has become a sort of "rural legend" in Northfield, and more than one nighttime traveler has claimed he encountered the Pigman while driving his car along a deserted country road, the hairy white beast narrowly missing the front-end of the vehicle.

The Pigman is not the only livestock apparition that haunts the back roads of Vermont. Between nearby Shoreham and Cornwall, a certain irate bovine has haunted a patch of Rt. 74 since the mid-1950s. A cherished Holstein of the Farrington Family broke through the fence and wandered out onto the pavement, where she was struck by a bread delivery truck. Loaves of bread scattered across the macadam, and the poor cow was no more — or so the Farrington's thought. Although the farm is no longer operating, a mysterious, lonely cow is occasionally spotted near the same spot where old Farrington lost his roving bovine. Many a frightened driver has seen the white splotches and glowing red eyes of the "Midnight Cow" peering at them in the dark. Some even believe that they have collided with the ghost and driven on without a scratch.

The towns, villages and country roads are filled with even more tales of odd creatures and mysterious phantoms. Whether you believe these stories to be true or you shrug them off as silly folklore, they are at least a bit entertaining. But I will leave you with this warning: Beware. It's a crazy world out there.

opinions

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Editorial

Don't invite it

Though we once thought that we live in a safe, isolated environment, recent headlines in *The Middlebury Campus* and e-mails from Public Safety indicate otherwise. In a three-week span, two alerts have been sent out to the College community to inform us that one student was threatened at knifepoint and that an unidentified person entered that another student's room. Theft and blue lights are hot topics of conversation as more people are able to say, "My bag was stolen."

It is scary to think that Middlebury College may not be the safe place you thought it to be.

True, reported thefts are numbering in the single digits, not in the hundreds. Proctor, the dining hall that sees the most thefts each year usually only has five a semester. Only five? That's all? What's the big deal?

The better question is: Why are there any at all? At a college filled with responsible adults, why are things going missing? Some attribute a rise in theft to the fact that no one sits outside the entrance to the dining halls any more — the checkers deterred anyone with kleptomaniac tendencies from helping themselves from the bags that lay strewn about — and then complain because students are discouraged from bringing their bags into the dining halls with them.

What's the alternative? Turn Club Midd into the Midd Pen? We've experienced the "Lockdown," it's now time for the "Lock-up." In response to the increased number of thefts seen this semester it's been suggested that lockers be installed outside dining halls and video cameras be placed so that bags can be monitored. Students laugh outwardly at these suggestions, yet when faced with the possibility of losing a jacket as the weather dips below freezing we take a moment to re-consider.

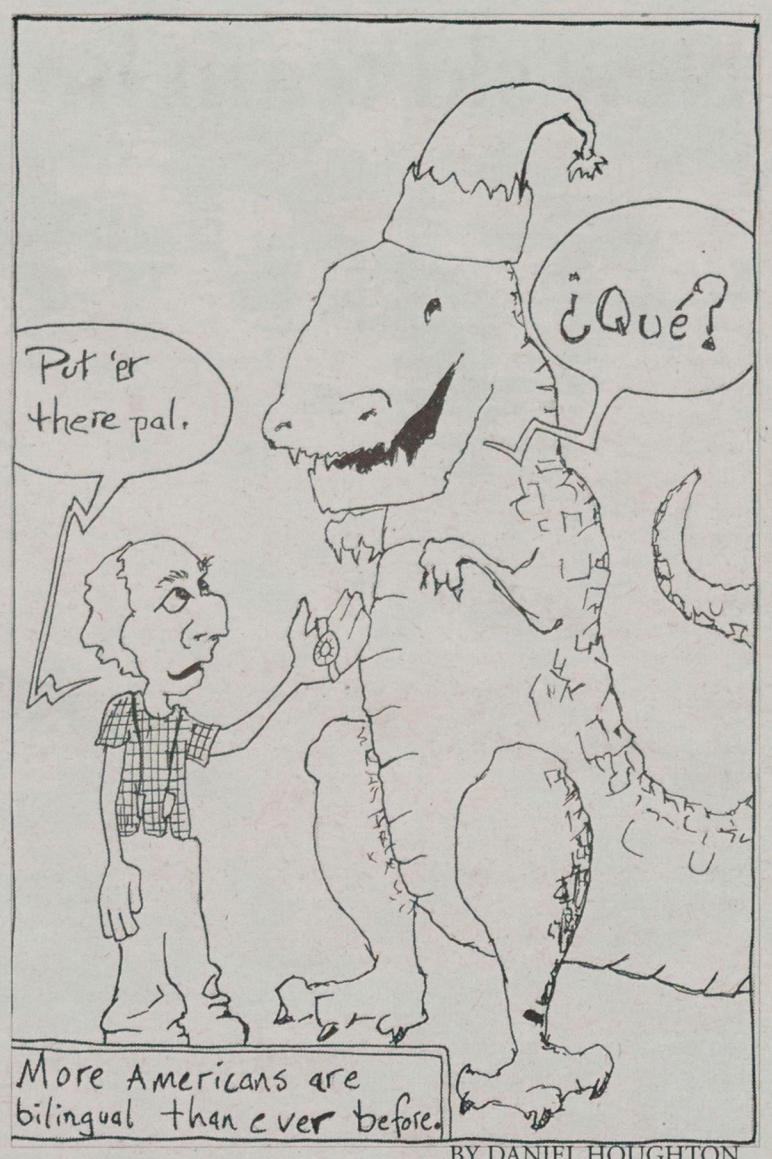
How many of us leave laptops lying outside of Ross Dining Hall as casually as we would leave class notes? How many of the crimes reported in the weekly Public Safety log could have been avoided if students exercised a little bit of common sense? Before asking for an armed guard to watch over coats, be alert. Don't leave your computers lying unattended on a desk in the library or the Great Hall, write your name in your new NorthFace Jacket, take your wallet out of your bag and put it in your pocket when you go into the dining hall, lock your bike, don't leave valuables lying around. You might — gasp! — even want to consider locking your dorm room doors. True, with the disappearance of Middcards we now have to carry our wallets with us when we leave our dorm rooms. But face it — the chip is gone, and even if a hundred wallets vanish, the administration is not going to bring it back. It is up to us to take steps to make sure our wallets stay in our possession, and not in some stranger's.

Theft cannot be helped if there are people who are consciously out to take things that do not belong to them, but by being a little more aware, we can decrease the likelihood that theft is a problem that we will have to deal with. Middlebury is a safe place and if petty theft is the largest issue that we will have to be conscious of on a day-to-day basis, then we have a lot to be thankful for. All it will take is a little extra step to remove the temptation.

People would like to think that they do not need to worry about theft and crime and they should not have to. We all know that we live within an isolated world, a "bubble" as it is usually referred to, and one complaint that is often heard is that living in this Middlebury Bubble ill prepares us for "the real world." However, though students ideally would leave Middlebury more aware and ready to face that "real world," let's not burst the Middlebury bubble by opening ourselves to real world theft on campus.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.



BY DANIEL HOUGHTON

Democrats silenced Nader

Although I think George Bush is a fascist and a liar, I am happy he has been elected for one important reason: he allows us to take an honest look at the Democratic Party. If John Kerry had been elected, democrats would have excused the way their own party trampled democracy by saying, "It was worth it. At least Kerry won." Since he didn't, we can now examine his party's shameful offense of blocking Ralph Nader's candidacy for president.

The majority of individuals who took Nader to court over obscure ballot technicalities were democrats. Just as democrats — except for Russ Feingold — frightened to desperation, resoundingly voted for the USA Surveillance Act, so too did they agree, under the pretext of solidarity, to silence the most important progressive, anti-corporate politician in America.

Progressive citizens are right to fear George Bush and his policies. He will undoubtedly be responsible for the death and impoverishment of more people in this world than John Kerry would have been. However, just as the nation's fear of terrorism — whatever that means — doesn't justify erasing our civil liberties, our fear of George Bush doesn't justify blocking a legitimate political candidate from receiving votes.

Thanks to democrats and the mainstream media, many progressive voters do not even know what Ralph Nader stands for — YES to universal healthcare, NO to the Patriot Act and the occupation of Iraq. "Why doesn't he just join the democrats and help them?" is a common refrain. Answer: Because he's not a democrat — he's an influential independent candidate. There can be — indeed, there once were — independent parties in the United States. If we look at Ralph Nader as a mere spoiler to the democrat,s the point is lost. Progressive third parties in general have minimal political influence and must establish their viability on a longer time scale. Nader is not trying to harm America by running for president. Rather, he is trying desperately to warn us that democrats and republicans are becoming increasingly similar and corporatized with each election. In his own words, he is helping us to "develop a resistance to rationalizing our own futility."

We have a political system that has worked reasonably well for about two hundred years. Cultural memory has been scarred by the Nixon and Reagan years, but lo! our flag still stands. Let's be respectful of political discourse even if Kerry and his crew are not. And since we're idealistic college kids, let's believe that there could be an independent, progressive (female?) president of the United States before we die, even if George Bush sets us back another four years.

MICHAEL IVES '05.5
A SPANISH MAJOR
FROM LARCHMONT, NY.

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Liberals too quickly dismiss Midwest

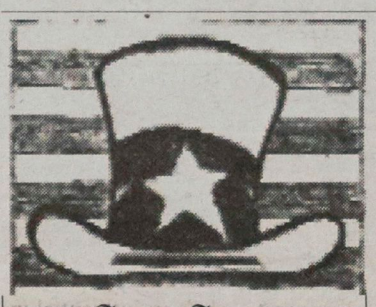
People are dumbfounded. Absolutely confounded. How did a group of hicks, religious fanatics and NRA members run away with 51 percent of the popular vote? Better yet — how could 58.6 million people be so stupid? Obviously a few members of the left-wing intelligentsia think it should somehow count as cheating if a mob of stupid people turns out to vote for you. Perhaps we should reinstate some kind of literacy test at voting registration, or maybe people with rural accents should really just ask an adult or someone they trust to fill out their ballot for them, as they are clearly not capable of knowing what is in their best interest.

Sometimes — and I know within the Middlebury Bubble it is entirely possible — we forget that, yes, there are in fact states in between New England and California. You know, the huge red mass on the electorate map. Some of them are rather large, actually. And, yes, people who live there vote. I should probably mention that I am from one of those states. As some of you know, I am from Mississippi. Mississippi was recently ranked the poorest state in the Union, with the worst education record and the highest poverty rate across all races. It should also be noted that Mississippi has the highest percentage of African-American residents out of any other state — 36.8 percent. Mississippi has consistently voted tremendously Republican in every presidential election since anyone can remember. Most of the poorest states voted for President Bush in the election last week and Bush's support among every minority in the United States rose, in some cases dramatically. Bush's support among Hispanics went up from 35 percent in the 2000 election to 42 percent in this election. But I thought only rich white people voted Republican?

A few people I spoke with on campus were convinced that Bush won the election by the crushing support of the Midwest and the South on "moral issues." How unfair is that — winning an election based on issues? I believe it's been said before — the Constitution does, in fact, provide for freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. Regardless of one's religious affiliation — or lack thereof — moral issues really are an important issue to most Americans. By voting for what they believe is morally right they are not infringing on anyone else's rights. That is the whole point of voting — everyone votes on what they think is best and a majority emerges from which decisions can be made. It may also come as a surprise that many people in rural areas actually support President Bush's War on Terror and sending troops into Iraq. They should know — most of the members of our nation's armed forces come from rural areas like the South and the Midwest, and most of those joined the military voluntarily. A lot of people in rural America are also interested in the same issues as those in urban America — taxes, health care, education, etc. So why is it that their opinions on these issues are somehow less important, or less valid? They are labeled "stupid" just because they weren't brainwashed by the overwhelming amount of rhetoric from Michael Moore, "MoveOn.org", MTV or Kirsten Dunst and Cameron Diaz, the credibility of whom could easily be discussed in an entirely different article.

Yes, President Bush won without the endorsement of any major celebrity — well, except for Arnold, but California wasn't very likely to go Republican, let's be honest— and he still won by about 3.5 million votes. The only thing you can accuse his support base of is being generally moral — and mostly poor. But just because average Americans do not live "just outside Boston" — or any other major city for that matter — or go to such illustrious institutions as Middlebury College does not mean they are stupid. And it sure as heck does not mean that their opinions are not important. The people of the United States of America could not possibly have hidden from the facts, issues or the amount of media shoved into their faces this election season. The people weighed their options, chose their candidates and 51 percent of them voted for President Bush. It is important to remember that Bush-supporters, or even conservatives for that matter, may not be the majority here in Vermont, but they have certainly proved to be the majority of America.

ASHLEY TIMIDAISKI '07
A JOINT RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES MAJOR
FROM BAY ST. LOUIS, MS.



Sam Says
A Political Commentary
By Sam Wilson

After Florida was called on Nov. 2, I became depressed. Things looked bleak for Ohio. I called my parents, retreated to my room and sought solace in an episode of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." Later, one of my housemates poked her head in my room to tell me that Ohio had been called for the President.

My friends and I stared blankly at the TV, moved outside to the front steps, hugged each other and cried. The optimism of the afternoon and early evening was gone. It hurt. We asked each other questions like, "Why did this happen? How did this happen? And what do we do now?"

The questions about why and how President Bush won re-election instead of fading into history as a one-term product of a flaw in the electoral system all have the same answer. It is not just that President Bush is a "wartime" leader or that John Kerry was a poor campaigner. Gay marriage did not decide the election and neither did Iraq — the republicans won the Presidency and increased their majorities in Congress because they are better at the game than the democrats.

The republican attack this year was well coordinated and ruthless. When the democrats nominated a war hero whose credentials challenged the image of Bush as a warrior leader, it began. The henchmen Swift Boat Veterans for Filth came out barfing insidious lies about Senator Kerry to the people. The President was able to say he thought Kerry was a hero but refused to condemn the attacks. They had the funding to get media attention even though their attack was based almost entirely on lies.

Speaking of the media, the right wing press was extremely effective. With varying degrees of slant, from Ann Coulter and Rush Limbaugh at one end and Fox News at the other, this media apparatus was able to destroy any debate regarding policy. The other outlets soon followed suit. Did Kerry look French? What to do with Michael Moore? Was Kerry really a war hero? Did Bush run away from the Air National Guard?

The Bush surrogates they released to the media were superb. The Governator, Rudy and Senator McCain all had significantly better Convention speeches than the President. On the talk shows, they all stayed on whatever the message was for that week. One liberal pundit told *Newsweek* she called the Kerry campaign before appearing on *Hannity and Colmes* to ask what the talking points were regarding the Swift Boat Liars. The campaign still did not have anything to counter those attacks.

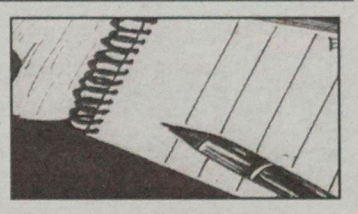
The republicans also had strategy lower down on the ballots. They figured out in the late '60s that hate, fear and intolerance are effective ways to get voters to forget about economic issues and vote for them. So, they put anti-same-sex marriage initiatives on the ballots in several swing states. Then they let the Congressional candidates attack their democratic opponents in vile ways designed to turn out the base. Again the President was kept clean though the fighting was bloody.

So, what should the opposition do now? Most importantly do not despair. This was a defeat, but not a total one. The republic will survive, and as long as that lives so will we.

Then we keep fighting, harder and more effectively than before. Yes, the republicans use the mainstream media better than we do, but we have the advantage on the internet. Blogs are extremely effective in cutting through spin and lies. The more people find out about them, the more they will influence the mass media. This hopefully will destroy the media's perception of objectivity. Objectivity is not giving both sides of an argument equal time, it is relying on fact. When the President claims that his tax cuts help poorer people the most, it should not be a shouting match on the veracity of that statement. The media should call it for what it is — a lie.

And if the republicans want to play politics with the Constitution, let us play too. But while they want to strip people of fundamental rights, we should seek to expand people's rights. That fact that Washington, D.C. does not have seats in Congress is ridiculous — as the license plates say, "Taxation without representation." The partisan bonus is that D.C. will almost surely add two d-emocrats to the Senate and one to the House.

We need to get our game together. This is not a call for dirty politics, but rather figuring out how to counter them. We have let ourselves be defined as elitist, coastal snobs who hate America. That is not true and we need to show America that our values — equality, social justice and freedom are American values.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

Like the majority of this campus, half the country and most of the rest of the world, I was disappointed that Americans chose not to elect Senator Kerry last week. Boo-hoo, cry cry, get over it. Let's be optimistic.

First of all, while Kerry did not win the election, Middlebury College Democrats won all over last Tuesday. We won in New Hampshire, where our canvassing helped defeat a sitting Republican governor and gave John Kerry the only "red" state in New England. We won in Pennsylvania, where our alumni delivered that battleground state to Kerry. We won in Middlebury, where our phone banks helped elect District Representatives Steve Maier and Betty Nuovo, and we made large gains in the state legislature.

Second, while Bush narrowly won this election by playing on divisive issues, our country is not a radical right-wing Christian theocracy. Truly popular republicans are moderates such as Arizona Senator John McCain, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Secretary of State Colin Powell — all of whom trump Bush in their approval ratings. Some of these men cross party lines to support gay-rights, abortion rights or *true* conservative fiscal discipline. Yes, we can be polarized, but truthfully we just want politicians who work together to get real things done.

Finally, whether or not we like the outcome, the fact that we held a fair and peaceful election is an amazing testament to our political process. Have faith in our system. Try as he may, Bush cannot singlehandedly abolish our progressive income tax or transform the Supreme Court or invade France. To borrow a line from my "Introduction to American Politics" course, American government is a system of separate institutions sharing power. The President is not a king, and even the conservative majorities in the Congress are slim majorities that include (some) intelligent people.

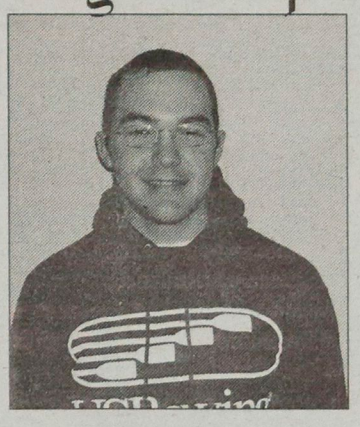
If you take comfort in nothing else, remember the greatest perk of our system: they started talking about 2008 the day after the election, and in 18 months we will start this whole game, once again.

BEN SALKOWE '07
NEWS EDITOR
THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Middlebury Campus online poll

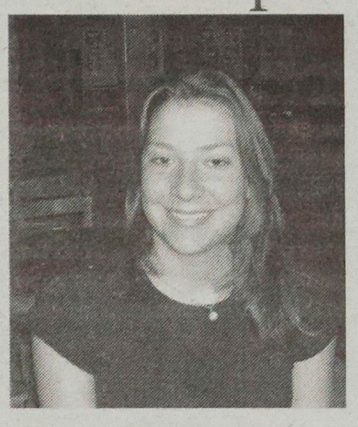
YEAH, I THINK IT WAS.

— GLORIA BUSHEY '08



YES, IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE WERE MORE CONCERNED AFTER 2000. I HEARD RUMORS THAT THERE WERE BALLOTS LOST BY USPS, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT A DECIDING FACTOR .

— STUART HURT '07



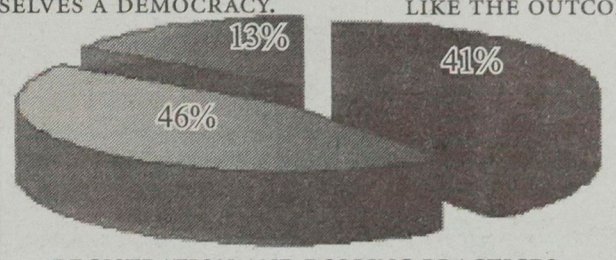
RUMORS JUST MIGHT BE TRUE ...

— CAROLINE VIAL '05.5

DO YOU THINK THE ELECTION WAS CONDUCTED IN A FAIR MANNER?

MAYBE — THE PROCESS NEEDS REFORM, BUT I THINK WE CAN STILL CALL OURSELVES A DEMOCRACY.

YES — DEMOCRACY WORKED THIS TIME, WHETHER OR NOT YOU LIKE THE OUTCOME.



NO — REGISTRATION AND POLLING PRACTICES SILENCED SOME OF OUR POPULATION.

Results based on 44 responses collected between Nov. 3 and Nov. 9 at www.middleburycampus.com

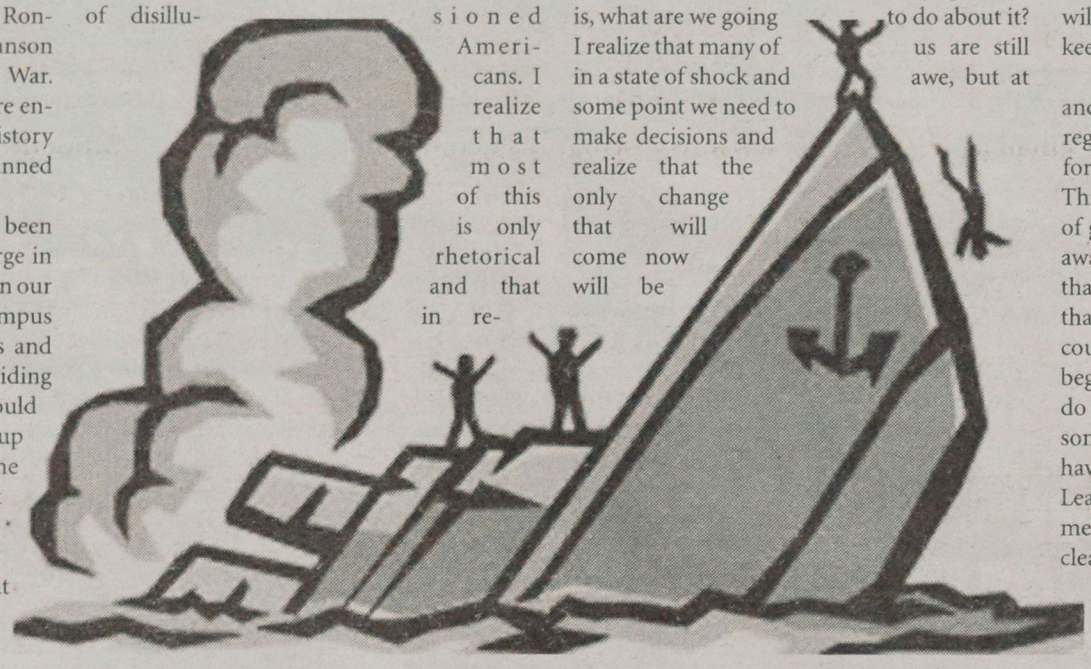
NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: DO YOU THINK IT'S OK FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE PROCTOR CUPS AND OTHER DISHES OUT OF THE DINING HALLS?

Democrats should not just abandon ship

In the early morning hours of Nov. 3, as my suitemate and I sat in front of the television and watched as the electoral college count for George W. Bush ticked higher and higher, I felt my heart fall to my stomach with that first realization that he would be our president for another four years. I mean no disrespect to Bush supporters, but my own belief is that this administration is one of the more damaging and dangerous to be in power since Ronald Reagan in the '80s, and Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon during the Vietnam War. For me and 48 percent of America, we are entering into a dark time in our nation's history and on Nov. 3, I was overwhelmingly stunned and sad.

Over the last few months I have been overwhelmed and exhilarated by the surge in this country's political spirit. Even here, on our own isolated and frequently apathetic campus people have been talking about politics and the world, reading newspapers and deciding for themselves in what direction they would like to see our country move. Building up to the elections, there was a tingle in the air, a mixture of nerves, fear, excitement and involvement here at Middlebury, and by all accounts we were not the only ones. Across the country people came out and voted in record numbers. There were lines outside of polling stations that went on for hours. In my own city of Chicago, 25 percent of all votes were cast in the first hour after the polls opened. This is unheard of. And it is only the beginning.

But in the days since the election, I have heard a lot of talk about "getting out" of America. Based on recent conversations and observations, it would seem that there is an exodus of democrats on the way, and Europe and Canada better make room for millions of disillusioned Americans. I realize that most of this is only rhetorical and that in reality people will not be rushing across the borders like rats from a sinking ship, but I worry that while people may stick around they will do little else but stand on deck and watch the water rise around them.



I have heard a lot about all the crap that's going to hit the fan now that Bush has his mandate to go ahead and continue his own plans of mass destruction. Well, my question is, what are we going to do about it? I realize that many of us are still in a state of shock and awe, but at some point we need to make decisions and realize that the only change that will come now will be born action and participation in the way our country does or does not work. Fifty-four percent of American youth voted against George Bush. How many of us are going to stand behind our rhetoric and our votes? My question is this — if the ship has sprung a hole the size of Iraq and is leaking Social Security, health care, employment, child care and civil liberties, are you going to stand back and watch, or will you grab a bucket and do what you can to keep it afloat?

I implore those who discovered a passion and a political spirit within them to not disregard it now that there is all the more need for those who oppose Bush to come together. This is our time to do something in the face of great obstacles. Let's not back down or run away. We have work to do and I can only hope that the sense of interest and involvement that radiated from Middlebury and the entire country this last year was not a fluke, but the beginning of a new trend. There is much to do and many fights ahead of us. We will win some, perhaps lose more, but either way we have to try. This is our country and our time. Leave Canada to the Canadians — there's a mess at home and I say we stick around to clean it up.

ELLEN WHELAN-WUEST '05.5
A HISTORY MAJOR
FROM CHICAGO, IL.

Midd should consider investment in SRI

As noted in the Thursday, Oct. 28 issue of *The Middlebury Campus*, Middlebury College's endowment has been performing remarkably well over the last few years, following a serious slump during the late 1990s. Indeed, the 22.7 percent rate of return achieved last year was among the highest in the nation. This change is the result of the hard work of numerous individuals relentlessly pursuing the goal of maximizing returns. I understand the advantages of such an approach and appreciate the luxuries it affords Middlebury students. However, I believe that Middlebury should begin to consider other factors while investing our $703 million endowment. I believe we should begin to consider the negative effects of certain investment choices and the potentially positive effect of alternative decisions. I advocate the development and implementation of a personalized Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) policy. Morals aside, we have a legal obligation to behave responsibly as a Non-Profit Organization accepting government funds. Also, a strategic SRI policy will prove economically beneficial in the long-term.

Furthermore, I believe that Middlebury's rigid policy of non-disclosure concerning its investment sources is backwards and wrong. It seems self-evident that at an institution which says it "expect[s] its graduates to be thoughtful, ethical leaders, able to meet the challenges of an informed citizenship," information concerning investment practices should be available to any interested student. A myriad of other prestigious universities and colleges — Williams, Amherst, Harvard, Stanford — make information on investment sources available to any interested student.

Last spring, my friend Jonathan Warnow and I received a small grant from the Environmental Council to pursue the idea of SRI. We researched the issue extensively, attended an inspiring conference at Amherst College, met with the Manager of Investments and the Chair of the Investment Committee and organized an event with three speakers. At this event, over 100 copies of a letter to the Investment Committee were signed by concerned students. This letter advocated the following — full disclosure of information regarding where our college's endowment is invested to any interested member of the faculty, staff or student-body, diversion of one percent of the endowment to SRI, divestment from companies profiting from products such as drugs, alcohol and weapons of mass destruction and the establishment of a coalition of faculty, staff and students to meet with and make suggestions to the Investment Committee, concerning proxy resolutions, shareholder initiatives, social screening and local investment opportunities.

Despite our efforts, Jon and I currently face the same stone wall as did numerous students before us, when working on the same issue. We are concerned, passionate students who feel that our rights are being violated — starting with the right to know. Middlebury College has neither validated nor responded to our concerns.

Middlebury College is an institution, which exerts control over voices of dissent. Certain lines of criticism are permissible, others are not. For example, as Jon and I discussed the issue of SRI with many people whose opinions I respect immensely, we were told that we should shift our focus to a different issue — local food in the dining halls, for instance. Other issues receive plenty of responses. Consider the indignation recently aroused at the expulsion of a Middlebury student charged with plagarism. Or consider the attention received by the Fair Trade Coffee campaign. While Fair Trade Coffee is a very worthy cause that I whole-heartedly support, the switch cost the College a maximum of $20,000, in exchange for a lot of good PR. Issues like these keep students busy, while issues of greater weight — $703 million! — remain unaddressed.

Put a different way, a certain level of dissidence is desirable, as it demonstrates that Middlebury students are independent, critical, passionate people. A certain percentage of such complaints should be addressed to allow the College to loudly praise its responsiveness to the student body and its constant and concerted effort to maximize social and environmental responsibility. But there are issues blatantly ignored and there are many questions left unasked, much less answered. I urge you to consider these issues and questions and subsequently take action.

If getting involved in the Ethical Purchasing and Investment campaign at Middlebury is a way you would like to act, come to a brief meeting on Tuesday, Nov.16 at 8:30 p.m. in the Gamut Room. Questions? Call Amber at Ext. 7339 or Jon at ext. 4792.

AMBER TROTTER '06
AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJOR
FROM REDWOOD VALLEY, CA.

MiddCard system disadvantages the underprivledged

The beginning of the 2004-2005 school year has seen a multitude of changes to the Middlebury College community — a new dormitory, an expansive library, new walkways and beyond. Among these changes is one that extends beyond realm of comfort and academics. The removal of the MiddCard system as a means of economic mobility on campus presents a sea of problems both immediate and long term. Middlebury College exists in the heart of New England, among beautiful trees, fields and mountains. It offers an optimal environment for learning. Middlebury College boasts a history as one of the more diverse colleges in New England. Many of the students choose Middlebury based not only on its academic reputation, but also because here they can coexist with those who are NOT like themselves.

Though Middlebury has less diversity than many institutions, it can confidently assert itself as one of the finer liberal arts schools in the region to tackle the goal of diversity with a steadfast enthusiasm. Nonetheless, the College must continue to make progress. And Middlebury is stunting its own progress with the changes to the MiddCard system. The MiddCard, while a luxury for some, is a necessity for others. It provided a source of economic stability that allowed students of lower socio-economic backgrounds to pursue their educations without financial worry.

As a student here, I (but especially my family) am well aware that the costs for the Middlebury experience far exceed that of tuition. Though the College provides financial aid, there are many holes that remain unfilled during the course of the school year. Even for those students for whom money is not a pressing issue, the annual costs of textbooks is great. For some students, the MiddCard made the expenses managable.

As a former employee of the College Store, I can understand the problems of the MiddCard. At the store, we would encounter students who had sizeable unpaid PIN bills and still were allowed to charge their textbooks. Most colleges do not allow this, but for years Middlebury has allowed outstanding bills that eventually made the system more of a disservice to the College than an asset.

At the same time, we must understand that many students paid their PIN bills as consistently as they could. These students ought not to suffer from the abuses of others. The removal of the credit function of the MiddCard created a separation on campus. It is reflected in seemingly trivial things, such as diversity of students who frequent The Grille, to bigger problems, such as the decrease in sales at the College Store of everything including textbooks.

The College has begun to address these problems, but has not gone far enough. Several students on financial aid at the beginning of the school year were granted $500 forward checks to help with school expenses. However, this check had to be paid back by the month of November. Most students on financial aid do not have the appropriate resources to pay back a loan of that magnitude in such a small time frame. Policies that seek to aid students like these must be more sensitive to their circumstances.

In abolishing the old MiddCard system, Middlebury College seems to be making a long-term choice of economics over diversity. Diversity is a word too often made to mean racial diversity. The MiddCard system, however, affects diversity that extends beyond race. It affects the socio-economic diversity of this campus. It affects enrolled students' abilities to learn both in and out of the classroom. It affects students' abilities to extend themselves beyond their comfort zones and learn about different people of different backgrounds with different experiences. In short, Middlebury College is in danger of becoming a school for the elite that, at the end of four years, will only have learned from the company of...themselves. Middlebury can only continue to build its strength as an institution by supporting its underprivileged students. It must not only help students to get to Middlebury, but also help them to stay for four years.

SAKAI TROXELL '05
AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJOR
FROM SPRINGFIELD GARDENS, NY.

CLASSIFIEDS

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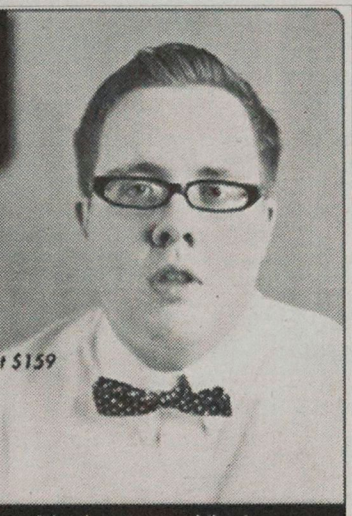

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Teacher Education Students Talk about K-12 Teaching
Thursday, Nov. 11, 4:30 pm
New Library: Watson Lecture Hall 201
A panel of six Middlebury College students- composed of four alums who are now teaching in Vermont schools and two students presently doing their student teaching in local schools- will share their experiences on becoming teachers. Information about Teacher Education at Middlebury College will also be available. If you are considering Teacher Education or have questions, please attend this event!
Refreshments served at 4:15

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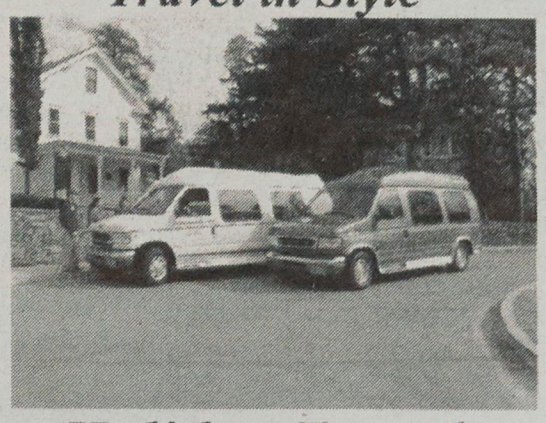

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A CREATIVE OUTLET FOR SHOWING OFF YOUR CLEVER WIT

AAA celebrates "Heritage" during the annual Night of Black Culture event

By Lynn Gray
Features Editor

On the evening of Sunday, Nov. 8, the African American Alliance (AAA) hosted its eighth annual Night of Black Culture in the McCullough social space. This year's event, called "Heritage," included a wide variety of artistic performances that displayed the depth of student talent and the strength of black cultural pride at the College. Performance pieces ranged from popular and sophisticated song renditions to original poetry readings, sobering speeches and a sensual, electric dance routine.

After a brief welcome that included refreshments such as raw vegetables and chicken wings with dip and fruit punch, the night began with a poetry reading by Alexis Hollinger '05. The piece, entitled "Namibia," was an original work by Hollinger written in response to the many months she spent living among the "incredible" people of Namibia, which is located on the western coast of southern Africa.

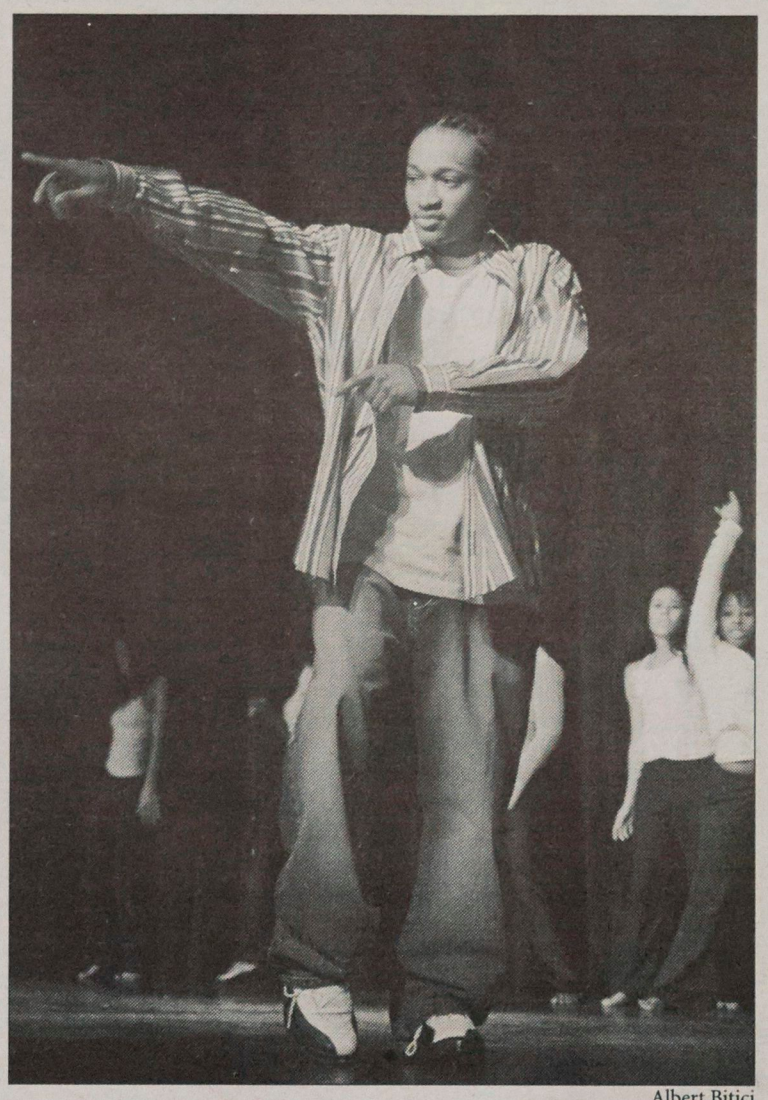
The recital was coordinated with a slide show displaying striking photographs of the Namibian people. The photographs illustrated the theme of the poem — the way in which the past repeats itself in every culture as ancient tradition is simultaneously pushed out by the phenomena of globalization. Hollinger's poem ended with the moving, "Today closes one mind and changes yesterday again."

A similarly dramatic performance of Langston Hughes' "Mother to Son" followed. Performed by Kelly George '08 and ReNard Rogers '07, the skit presented contemporary social issues faced by Black Americans and illuminated how the history of their struggle affects how they see these problems. Rogers, who played an angry son returning home from school, described his outrage at not having enough money to pay for college, not being able to find an internship and having just flunked an exam. His mother, played by George, calmly yet forcefully tells him that she has seen the worst of times, but has never given up. She implies that her son should learn from his pain and grow stronger in overcoming it.

Cherine Anderson '4.5 displayed her powerful voice as she sang Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly." The audience clapped and bounced to the beat, calling "Hey! Ho!" throughout the song as colored lights pulsed on stage. As Anderson thanked the crowd and exited the stage, many crowd members jumped to their feet and applauded enthusiastically. Anderson later sang an original Soul/R&B piece, "Diamonds" — a song about being in love. She said, "I chose the songs because they reflected my mood on that day. I wanted to take something positive, entertaining and personal to the stage." Anderson's performance was the highlight of the evening for audience member Durrell Mack '06. He said, "I really liked when Cherine sang — she has a beautiful voice."

Black is the color of struggle, power and respect — it is strong and so are the depths of blackness.
— Charzetta Nixon '06

Natalie Fisher '06 described some of her experiences growing up in Jamaica in her narrative poem, "Saturday." Fisher detailed the daily tasks of cleaning and cooking that she watched her grandmother complete with strength and love for many years. Recalling time spent together in the kitchen, she quoted her grandmother as having said, "for the best results, you have to love cooking and love the people you're cooking for." After the performance Fisher said, "I loved the entire show. I thought it was great."



Albert Bitici
Edwin "Pop" Semidey '06 had a solo in the Main Attraction performance, choreographed by Charzetta Nixon, during Sunday night's show.

Other performance pieces included a large group dance number choreographed by Charzetta Nixon '06 and an enthusiastically received "Stomp" step series by Rogers and Kereem Anderson '07. The show ended with a reading by Nixon titled "Blackalicious," in which she redefined the color black. Nixon gave evidence that the color black has historically been associated with darkness, evil and danger. She claimed that the color black is actually the color of "struggle, power and respect — it is strong, and so are the depths of blackness."

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Marishal Gentry has attended every Night of Black Culture since he came to College five years ago. "I enjoy seeing the students get together — We are rich in talent," he said. Francois Clemmons, Twighlight artist-in-residence and the College choir conductor, echoed these sentiments. "I like seeing [the students] develop as dancers, as choreographers, as singers." Regarding what he considered the evening's strong points, he said, "I personally enjoyed the poetry."

The performance did not just include African American students. Anderson, who has been a member of AAA for four years, said of the organization, "It is a diverse group of students from African ancestry and students who are curious about things African, all working together to educate, inform and have some fun on the side."

Albert Bitici

Albert Bitici
LEFT: Pianist and singer Ezra Axelrod '08 played "It's Time" on the McCollough Social Space stage with his unpictured performance partner.
RIGHT: Cherine Anderson '04.5 belts out a moving rendition of "Killing Me Softly" that brought the audience to its feet.

Mobility — a slippery slope

By Alex Crumb
Staff Writer

College life is peppered with challenges — papers assignments, sports practices and extracurricular meetings wrinkle many students' lives. Yet for a select group of Middlebury students these obligations pale in comparison to a larger obstacle — getting around the Middlebury College campus. Students with physical handicaps and temporary injuries that leave them dependent on the use of a wheelchair or, more often, crutches, deal on a daily basis with difficulties most students have never imagined.

How do physically impaired students fare as they move about the campus? For students with fresh injuries, it is often difficult to adapt to their sudden and unfamiliar lack of mobility.

"My fibula was cracked all the way through," said Emily Eliot '07.5 as she hobbled her way up the stairs to the third floor of Munroe Hall. "I can get around short distances fine on crutches from Hillcrest to Munroe, but to get from Munroe to Bi-Hall, things definitely get tougher. I try to get rides from Public Safety as often as I can."

Helping students get around is one of the principal functions of Public Safety officers during the daytime — officers are not pulled away from other duties in order to provide transporation for students in need of aid. "They're late a lot, but they do come," said Eliot. "Even the officers who drive me said they need to put more attention to this issue."

Acknowledging the prevelance of mobility issues, the Parton Health Center staff seeks to provide aid to students, but their limited services only partially offset the barriers that confront some students. "We can write excuses and provide crutches," said Allison Parker, FNP, at the Parton Health Center. "But beyond that, kids usually figure their own ways around, oftentimes getting rides with friends."

The popularity of active sports and hobbies contributes to the frequent incidence of student injury at the College, while the sprawling size of the campus compounds mobility difficulties for disabled students. Despite the persistence and constancy of these challanges, little has been done in recent years to re-evaluate daily logistical assistence for students.

The Department of Public Safety is the only resource for student transportation and, despite the fact that providing student transporation assistance is one of their primary objectives, some claim that the officers cannot keep up with demands of the injured students.

"When I broke my ankle during Feb orientation last year, I had to get rides from Public Safety," said Brendan Smith '07.5, recalling the accident he incurred while playing broomball last winter. "They were too slow to rely on, so I got a car from home, but I ended up getting tickets everywhere because of miscommunication with Public Safety on where I could park."

Smith also noted the difficulty of navigating the College campus on crutches in February. "Getting from Hepburn to Bi-Hall in the snow is not easy," he said.

During the winter, mobility becomes dramatically more difficult. Walkways covered with packed snow and the already-slick marble stairs outside of many buildings become danger spots for the physically impaired.

"You really do learn a lot when your movement is hampered, even if it's temporary," Eliot noted. "I didn't realize how difficult it was to negotiate things like non-handicapped bathrooms and showers while on crutches."

Getting around the campus with limited mobility is no easy task. Fortunately, all these students said that while aid from the College may come up short the help provided by their close friends knew no bounds.

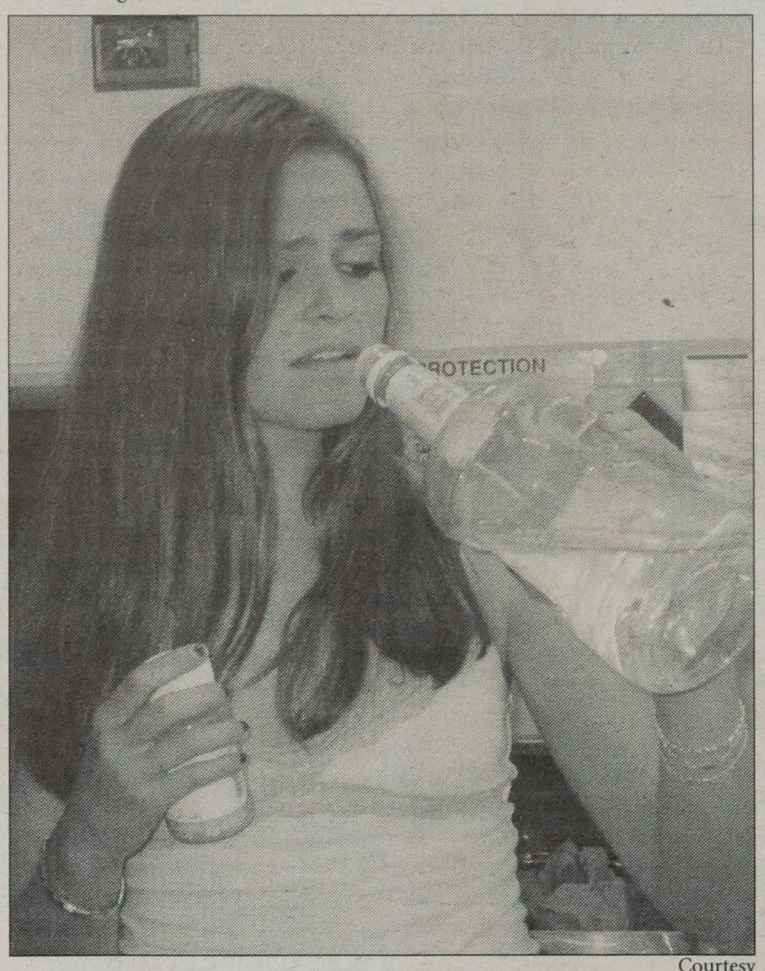
Nirvana Bhatia

Despite receiving help from Public Safety transportation, Emily Eliot '07.5 finds the adjustment to life at Midd on crutches very challenging.

As Middlebury grows colder, a new season of drama heats up the OC

By Lisie Mehlman
Features Editor

College life was going smoothly. Days were spent daydreaming when I should have been trying to take notes. Nights were spent doing anything possible to avoid coursework — staying at Proctor for hours on end, chatting online, stalking people on the facebook.com and even calling home. Weekends were spent giving myself a break from all the "rough work" I had done during the week. Yet, something was missing from my life here at Middlebury, something huge, something that had played a pivotal role in my first-year experience. For a long time I couldn't quite put my finger on it. And then, like Eddie hit Theresa, the realization hit me. I was feeling a general lack of "The OC" in my life.



Courtesy

Lindsey Jones '07 dressed the part of "The OC" character Marissa "Coop" Cooper and acted out her favorite scene from the seaon premiere.

Thankfully, "The OC" returned to my rather sad existence and the lives of college students nationwide last Thursday night at 8 p.m. via Fox. The season premiere provided faithful and sometimes cultish viewers the glory and resplendence of last season. Sandy Sokoloski '07 described the transcendental experience that was the season premiere. "I laughed, I cried, I swooned over the sexy new pool boy — it was an emotional rollercoaster." When asked if the premiere left her with high hopes for the show's sophomore season, Lindsey Jones '07 replied, "Well, Marissa was already binge drinking by herself in the first episode, so I'd have to go with YES!"

Middlebury students seem to have an obsession with this melodramatic teenage soap opera. I am sure we are all wondering how its move from Wednesday to Thursday will affect the Middlebury social scene. For the season premiere, Jones and her friends dressed up like their favorite characters. Jones portrayed Mischa Barton's character, Marissa 'Coop' Cooper because she relates to her best. Jones does not think such a celebration was too elaborate. She asked, "'The OC,' real life, where is the line? I mean, it's normal to compare every experience in your life to a TV show, right?"

Although fans like Jones mock their devotion to the show, their dedication is, nonetheless, a large part of the show's breakout success. Jacob Jose Moreno Coplon '08 said, "I had basketball tryouts last Thursday and they weren't over until 9 p.m. I was pretty upset but I called my dad back in New York and he was kind enough to tape the episode for me. It was almost a disaster. I went home this weekend and saw it."

Morena Coplon was a devoted viewer before coming to the College. He said, "Once there was this huge party at my friends house on the same night that the show was on. I was all set to go until I couldn't get the VCR to work. I told him that my mom said I couldn't go, just so I could watch the show. My friend later found out and he's never going to let that one go," he said.

Those of us already hooked on "The OC" have no difficulty understanding its addictive nature. But those of you who have yet to be reeled in by Seth's charm or Kirsten's "MILF-like" qualities may still be unsure of the show's appeal. Moreno Coplon thinks that Midd-kids "like it because they think skeletal Mischa Barton is hot. And a lot of people have never had the chance to live that life [one of high society glamour and glitz] and that's what makes it so interesting."

Jones speculated about the connections between Middlebury College and "The OC." "Drinking, drugs, sex, rich teenagers and beaches — how is this not Middlebury?" Sokoloski echoes this idea in listing the following reasons for the show's appeal. "Teens, sex, drama, California, Seth Cohen. Enough said."

The reason for the show's powerful hold on our demographic is probably our staunch love for the characters. Moreno Coplon said, "Seth is my favorite because he doesn't conform to the norm of Orange County, and he still bagged the baddest girl. He's also funny and awkward. The show needs that."

I would argue that Middlebury College does not need that. We are good in the "funny and awkward" department. Moreno Coplon went on to explain how he enjoys watching the interaction between "sort-of-brothers" Seth and Ryan. In the premiere, when "Ryan is on his way out of Portland and Seth decides that he wants to go back with him — that was a cute little display of heterosexual man love."

Sokoloski drew attention to the amusement gained from watching the rather unstable character named Marissa. When asked about her favorite scene in the premiere, Sokoloski responded, "Come on, obviously Marissa's meltdown — 'You want to know what I'm thinking? You want to know how I feel? AAAGGGHHHH!!!!' (Throw lawn chair into pool here). Misha Barton, your acting skills have truly progressed to a new level this season."

So, with the new season under way, and another new episode tonight, I can go back to living my life without feeling like I am missing something vital.

"I am counting the days until I get season one on DVD. And when I do, I won't leave my room until I have watched every episode, in chronological order — twice," Sokoloski said.

For those of us like Sokoloski, one episode per week is just not enough to satiate our hunger for "The OC."

Luckily, the first season is now available on DVD. It presents us with yet another effective way to procrastinate, helping us to avoid doing anything productive during our time here at Midd.

chainreaction

Franchises squeeze local businesses

By Abbie Beane
Associate Editor

Corporate America is remaking the face of yet another classic, locally-owned New England town. At least that is how many students, town residents and small business owners see it after the recent influx of franchise stores on Court St. in historic, small-town Middlebury. Although several locally-owned shops encourage more commerce and competition in town, seeing it as good for the economy and the customer, a few have taken a big hit in their sales and are concerned about the town's new aesthetic.

Owner Greg Wry of Greg's Meat Market claimed that his business dropped off 30 percent in July — the month after Hannaford opened. His sales are now down eight to nine percent and holding steady. He believes the worst is over. Subway, which opened last spring, has also hurt his business a bit, but "we have a good name in grinders," he said, "and people come to us for our meat service. We still have a lot of faithful customers." Wry, in business for 23 years, thinks that Middlebury is too small for any more competition now.

Another business that has taken a substantial hit is Middlebury Bagel and Delicatessen, which bakes all of their goods from scratch and has been in business since 1945. Jim Rubright, owner for 26 years, reported that although Subway has not noticeably affected their sales, Dunkin' Donuts, which opened last year, has significantly hurt their donut business. Whereas they used to sell about 70 dozen donuts on a Sunday, last Sunday they sold a mere 18 dozen. According to Rubright, it is convenience that hurts him the most. The businesses such as Dunkin' Donuts and the Mobil Station on Court St. can get people in and out quickly and provide other services for one-stop shopping. Rubright's business is off the "main drag" and provides only food. As for pricing, "our prices are not more expensive for what you get," said Rubright, "but franchises cheapen the industry. However, some people need the lowest price point, so it's a catch twenty-two." As for the expansion of the Middlebury Natural Food Co-op next door, Rubright reported that ironically it is good for his business, as it brings more commerce to his area of town. "We all market our businesses, he said, "but the franchises have been marketing far longer and have a well-established reputation."

Karen Phelps, owner of Noonie's Deli in the Marble Works district, explained that her sales have been down over the past two years, but Subway is not the only culprit. "Any new business will take a little piece of the pie away," she said. Although she reported having seen some of her clientele leaving Subway, she also attributes losses to the new Backhome Kitchen, the College's eateries and to The Blue Hen. "Our philosophy is very different from Subway's," she said, "and we try to capitalize on our unique atmosphere and [sandwich selection]."

The Blue Hen on Main St. benefits from its location, according to Manager Peter Ross. "Oftentimes college kids, professors and coaches don't have the time to go up to Court Street, and we benefit from that," said Ross. "But it's easier for the people working on Exchange Street to go to the franchises on Court Street, so that hurts us." However, Ross believes in selling The Blue Hen's atmosphere and personality, and claims a loyal following. "We are in a more direct line of competition with other delis than with Subway," he said.

As for Forth N' Goal, it could be directly affected by Olympia Sports, which opened in October in the Court St. Plaza. However, David Isque, co-owner of the store, is confident because his business has an established name and has always catered to the needs of the local clientele. "It's good to give customers more options to lessen the power of monopolies," he said. "If someone wants the best price they may consider others, but if they want the best quality, they'll consider us." Isque believes that in a small town like Middlebury it is important to consider the relative square footage of stores to contain their size and match them to the area. He is concerned, however, that the new chain stores will "drive the local infrastructure down to the lowest common denominator."

For local clothing stores like Clay's and Wild Mountain Thyme, the arrival of T.J. Maxx in October will probably not cause an immediate problem. "It is hard to tell this early," said Meg Brash, manager of Clay's, "but our philosophy is very different from theirs, and if people want quality they'll shop on Main Street. There will be a small percentage that go to T.J. Maxx, probably the ones who went to Ames before, but most of my customers say they only go there to buy dishes." Although Wild Mountain Thyme also has a strong local clientele, Manager Jen Oberkirch projected that T.J. Maxx might take away some business. "It may also be good though and bring in new business to Middlebury," she said. "It's difficult to say now since this is our slow season. Business is cyclical regardless."

Town resident Deandra Woods who has lived in Middlebury for 10 years does not believe the new big-box businesses are an entirely negative addition. "It's good to have somewhere to go to buy the essentials," she stated. "Now when I need sheets I can go to T.J. Maxx instead of going all the way to Burlington." Although she still goes to Greg's for sandwiches, she does like the fact that Subway provides another choice. As for town aesthetics, Woods feels that the new franchises are not overly intrusive since they are separated from the historic downtown area.

Chris LaPearle, a town resident since last summer, also sees the benefit in having more stores close by. "Many offer things a lot cheaper," he said, "and I didn't have to go to Burlington last week just to buy a pair of dress pants, which only cost me twenty dollars."

On the other hand, Mel Plante, who has lived on Bridport Lake for 13 years, does not like anything about the franchising of Middlebury. "I don't like the look of them," she said. "They don't fit in here. I never go to Dunkin' Donuts, though sometimes I have to go to T.J. Maxx for [home furnishings] since there's nowhere else to go."

Keith Case '04.5 is also averse to the new franchises, which he believes disrupt the town fabric. "Their patterns of urbanism don't align with a sustainable and walkable community," said Case. "I realize there is an economic strain for people on a tight budget, but there is a spiritual cost in going to franchises."

Jason Lockhart '05 and Will Ceurvels '08 feel they do offer some real benefits, however. "They create more employment for people," said Ceurvels. As for Lockhart, who is from New York City and accustomed to chain stores, he finds the ease of access the franchises provide extremely beneficial to the town. "Things are more convenient now that I don't have to drive 45 minutes to Burlington," he said.

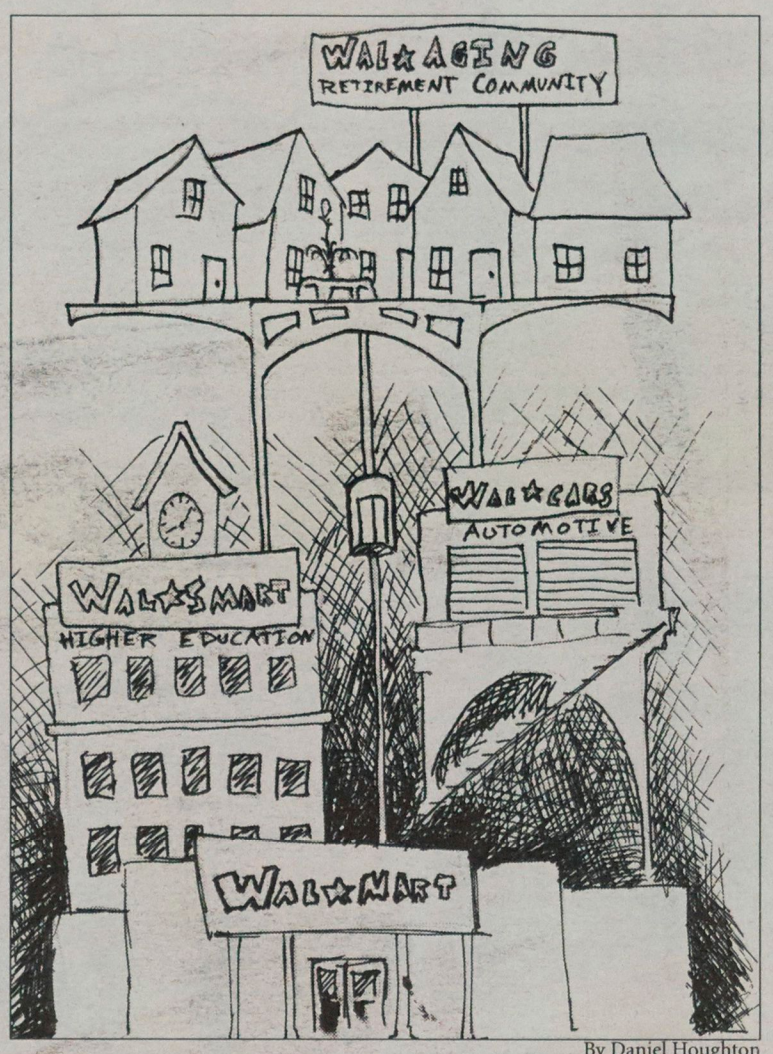
Emily Bierman '07 also finds the influx of franchises mostly positive. "They are set back from the town center," she said, "and very convenient." Rebecca Browngoehl '07 loves Olympia Sports and Hannaford. "Now I don't have to go to Burlington to avoid being overcharged," she said. "And Hannaford actually feels like a real supermarket. It has a much wider selection."

Julia Randall

National chains like Dunkin' Donuts offer a cheaper variety of products, threatening local businesses in Middlebury and other small Vermont towns.

Julia Randall

Organic vegetables abound at the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, an alternative to big retailers like Shaw's.



By Daniel Houghton

Town vision holds fast admidst changes

By Andrea Gissing
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The vast majority of the students who attend Middlebury College have come to this area from outside the region, drawn here for a variety of reasons, often including their attraction to the town of Middlebury's atmosphere. As stated in the Town Plan, "Middlebury is seen as an attractive, small New England town with a balanced diversity that contributes to a strong sense of community. Agriculture, small business, industry, professional and social services, and Middlebury College are part of the diversity that is integral to Middlebury's quality of life." This can be clearly seen in the charm of Main Street and the exterior of businesses like McDonalds and Brooks Pharmacy, whose designs reflect the Vermont style.

"Franchise prototype architecture is banned in Middlebury," said Town Planner Fred Dunnington, explaining why outside businesses mold to the Middlebury style. "A lot of people like how Brooks and the Marriot don't have the 'Anywhere, U.S.A.' feel." While Middlebury works hard to preserve this image, it does not mean that the town would necessarily exclude outsiders in the name of preserving history. This is evident with the stores that have opened up in the space Ames vacated — Hannaford's, T.J. Maxx and Olympia Sports. But there is a portion of the Middlebury population that feel these large retailers are an encroachment on Middlebury's classic, small-town style, rather than a welcome addition. "There are a lot of people who see the sign and say no matter how you dress it up and make it unique to Middlebury, it's still a franchise," Dunnington said.

For College students who experience time here on a four-year deadline, the Ames building on Rt. 7 seemed to stay empty for a very long time. Students returning this fall observed the building rush that seemed to overrun the complex and commented on how a lot of new stores seemed to be coming in all at once. Yet "Middlebury experiences the same things that the rest of the country does, just at a much slower pace," Dunnington said, dispelling the idea that this influx of new businesses reflects a sudden change. "Chain stores and franchise businesses arrived in Middlebury decades ago," he continued, giving Ben Franklin, Aubuchon Hardware and the old Ben & Jerry's as examples. "To most people 'chain' or 'franchise' is usually identified by a franchise logo or sign with national or regional marketing. However, many franchise-affiliated businesses are locally owned."

Town Manager Bill Finger said that, "any new development is subject to a very rigorous planning and zoning review process," pointing out that the shopping center where the new businesses are located is owned by Myron Hunt of Buffalo, N.Y., who owns several shopping complexes in Vermont and New York. "[Hunt]," Finger continued, "recruits and selects businesses to occupy available space. As long as the center owner and the businesses occupying the center comply with all local and state laws and regulations they are allowed to operate."

For those who worry that the town is going to turn into a strip mall, Dunnington said, "Middlebury does not have the population or market base to become a power retail center. Even if we could get the town to clearly agree to attract a large retailer [such as Target or Walmart], our ability to attract large retailers is limited."

"Middlebury, like many communities, strives to create a well planned, healthy environment in which residents and businesses alike can thrive," said Finger. "It is a very good sign that we have succeeded if businesses, large and small, chain and locally owned choose to invest in Middlebury."

Town rolls over Wal-Mart idea

By Polly Johnson
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Driving down Main Street is a reminder of Middlebury's quaintness, with its family-owned businesses and specialty retail stores. But just a short distance away on Rt. 7, there are now establishments such as Subway, McDonalds, T.J. Maxx, Olympia Sports and the Marriott Courtyard Hotel, which in a relatively short period of time have become routine stops in Middlebury. Are these chain stores threatening the charm of our picturesque town?

Laura Scott, owner of the Vermont Book Shop, strongly opposes the recent spike in chain stores in Middlebury. "I hate to see chains — we are starting to look like every town in the United States They take away the 'special-ness' of being here, and its uniqueness is why people come to live in Middlebury."

Most frightening to local businesses is the possibility of a Wal-Mart coming to town. "It would be seriously devastating — they're a different beast, even more so than Target or K-mart," said Larry Duffany, general owner of Ben Franklin. Scott believes that the Vermont Book Shop would disappear completely if a Wal-Mart came in.

Middlebury Town Planner and Zoning Administrative Officer Fred Dunnington commented on the current controversy over a proposed Wal-Mart.

The main concerns he highlighted were "its economic practices, including its international employment policies — not just that its predatory pricing does not permit fair competition by local businesses."

One main concern is that "[Walmart's] predatory pricing does not permit fair competition by local businesses."
— Fred Dunnington, Town Planner

However, the arrival of Walmart might not have as negative of an effect as some predict. In 1974, when Ames was established in Middlebury, residents and storeowners had the same fear of a "big-box" store.

Yet in a recent economic analysis study conducted by the Middlebury Business Association, it was asserted that "the presence of Ames actually benefited the local downtown by the effect of drawing more shoppers to Middlebury, some of whom also shopped downtown."

On May 24, 2004, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed the state of Vermont as one of the top 11 endangered sites, due in part to the rise of such large chain stores as Wal-Mart. Mia Masten, community affairs manager for the store's eastern region, however, defended the establishment of Wal-Mart in small Vermont towns. "We've heard from a lot of Vermonters who want a Wal-Mart closer to their communities," she said. "There are currently four Wal-Mart stores in Vermont, with seven more in the planning stages.

Politicians are evenly divided on the presence of Wal-Marts, with Governor Jim Douglas '72 defending them and Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle opposing. Vice-President Dick Cheney, in a speech in Arkansas on May 3, also commented on the issue. "Without a doubt, Wal-Mart has been a tremendous economic success," he said, calling the behemoth store "an economic powerhouse, and a real credit to the United States of America."

Although Middlebury residents will not be facing the establishment of a Wal-Mart until a much later date, the presence of other chain stores has had a resounding impact on the town.

Speaking of her bookstore, Scott noted,"So many other places are selling books that our customers are thinning and our profits are lower and lower."

Dunnington recognizes that the "chain stores and franchise businesses arrived in Middlebury decades ago — Ben Franklin, Aubuchon Hardware, Grand Union (now Shaw's), Ames, McDonald's, Agway Farm & Home Center, and not to mention all the franchise gas stations and convenience stores."

What many residents do not know is that "many franchise-affiliated businesses are locally owned," such as Subway, whose owners are affiliated with the national Subway franchise, but are local owners.

While it seems that most local storeowners oppose the possibility of a Wal-Mart, Dunnington stated that "some area citizens feel that Wal-Mart would be the only real option," and recognizes that "there are still those who like the low prices and selection of Wal-Mart and don't care about its employment practices or predatory practices that harm local businesses."

Because of differing opinions and zoning issues, the establishment of a Wal-Mart, were it to pass, is a project for the future. That does not mean, though, that the current controversy will cease until that point. Jeff Waite of the Marble Works Pharmacy said, "I-t would have an extraordinarily detrimental effect on the town," because it would mean "sharing the existing business and then fractioning that."

With so many opposing views, it is hard to foresee a Wal-Mart in Middlebury anytime soon. As Dunnington said, "I'm sure a Wal-Mart application, even in the allowable location, would face a challenging local review."

He also stated that although the Planning Commission does not want to outright reject any plans, "getting agreement on that would be a challenge. There would be [much] public opposition."

WAL-MART: MORE MONEY THAN MOST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

Number of Wal-Marts in Vermont: 4 (the fewest of any state)

Number of Wal-Marts in the other 49 states: 3,044
(317 in Texas, the most in any state)

Number of visitors to U.S. Wal-Marts weekly: 100 million

Single-day sales record for American stores on
Nov. 29, 2002: $1.4 billion

Wal-Mart is three times the size of Carrefour, the world's second largest retailer.

If Wal-Mart were a country, its 2002 sales of $245 billion would make it No. 31 on the list of the world's largest economies, ahead of Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Austria.

Wal-Mart's distribution center in Bentonville, Ark. covers 1.2 million square feet, which could hold 24 football fields or 800 tennis courts.

Sources: *Newsweek* Magazine and hispanicmarket.net

Photos capture broadening horizons

Study abroad photo contest exposes many shades of student talent

By Stephanie Garlow
Staff Writer

Albert Bitici

Students and community members alike admire the works of Study Abroad Photo Contest finalists.

Every year, Middlebury College students travel around the globe to live and study in a variety of foreign countries. This year, students submitted 240 photographs for consideration in the annual Study Abroad Photo Contest hosted by the College. Submissions came from a wide range of locations including South America, Spain, France, South Africa, New Zealand and Madagascar. Through selective voting, staff from the Office of Off-Campus Study determined the top 26 photographs, which are currently on display in the Grille.

Members of the College and Middlebury communities have been encouraged to attend the viewing and vote for their favorite photograph. First prize is a roundtrip ticket to anywhere in the United States. Second is a framed print of the respective photograph. Various local businesses, including Mister Ups, the College Bookstore and Middlebury Bagel and Delicatessen, contributed gift certificates that will be awarded to students in third through 12th place.

Although the Study Abroad Photo contest is an annual event, this is the first year that an opening reception was held. Most of the photographers were present at the event and many other students and members of the Middlebury community attended the Nov. 8 opening. Program Assistant in the Office of Off-Campus Study Maggie Edmunds, who also organized the event, explained that the idea behind an opening reception was "to get returnees together one last time."

One of the photographers present was Lea Davison '05, who attended the University of Otago in New Zealand. She took her photograph, a scenic picture of mountains reflected on a lake, in the early morning while on a hiking trip. Davison said, "You could just turn and snap anything. It was an amazing picture."

Dustin Dolginow '05.5 has two photos in the exhibit — one of a sunset in the north of Chile and the other in the mountains in the country's southern region. He reiterated Davison's amazement at the awe inspiring beauty that surrounded him. Dolginow recalled, "That day was idiot-proof, it was so gorgeous." Zach Center '05 also had two photographs on display that were taken during his time abroad in South Africa. One photograph was of a lion in a nature reserve. After driving through the reserve for four hours he came upon a pride of 10 lions and was able to capture the rare sight on film. When he returned to the same area the following day his van flipped and crashed. Knowing there had been lions in the same area the previous day, Center waited anxiously to be picked up. He said of his lion encounter, "I never had seen anything that powerful."

Eric Fraser '05 submitted a photograph of the Twelve Apostles, which is a rock formation along the Great Ocean Road in Australia. He found the formation while on a road trip during his time abroad. Fraser remembered that the entire coastline was "beautiful" and said, "I just tried to get off the beaten path and find things other people wouldn't see."

Many curious students came to view the opening of the photographic display. Erica O'Brien '08, who was drawn to the event because of her interest in photography, was amazed by the display. "It is obvious that we have a lot of talent here and it's hard to just choose one [winner]," Scott Palmer '05 also commented on the impressiveness of the photographs. He said he would also like to see a similar exhibit created for students who do not go abroad while studying at the College.

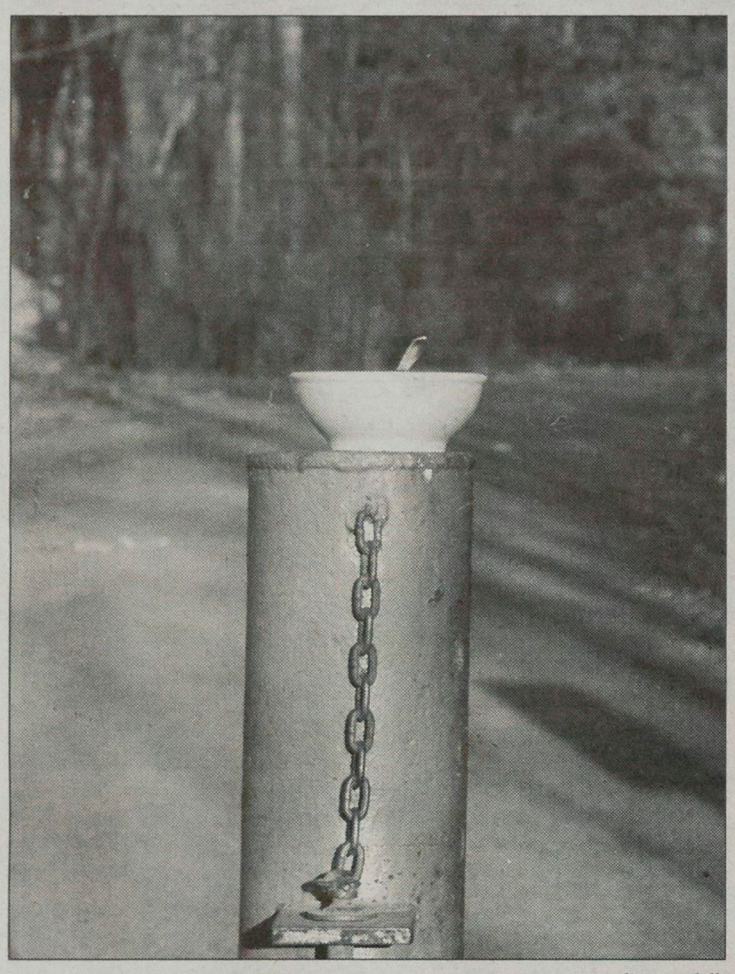
The exhibit's audience did not consist solely of students. Bud Reed, a Middlebury resident, had come to the Grille for dinner when he discovered the reception. He was impressed by the quality of the photographs. He was particularly interested in one of a train in the Swiss Alps, taken by Stephanie Dosch. "[The photograph] represents the decisive moment — whoever took that shot had to choose exactly the right moment, which on a moving train is extremely hard to do," he said.

Molly Reed, a local elementary school teacher, was thrilled when a friend told her about the exhibit. Her class is currently doing a unit called "Around the World in Eighty Days." She wants to find a way to bring her class to see the exhibit because, as she said, "It would be perfect for them to see all these pictures from all around the world."

Many people expressed concern about having to choose the best picture. Annie Janeway '90, Alumni-Parent Programs director, called the photographs "extraordinary." She questioned the criteria one should use to cast her vote for the best photo.

She was torn between selecting a photograph with the best human-interest element or one that best represents what the Study Abroad program is about. The final decisions will be made later this week.

WARE ABOUTS



Julia Randall

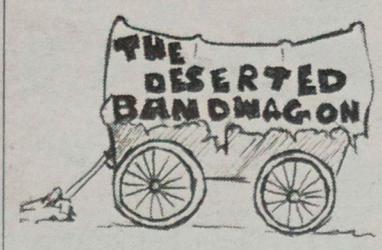
Standing alone, a Proctor bowl is overlooked in the frantic search for cups. A shortage of bowls was evident in Proctor last Tuesday night.

PANTHER TOP 10

What music makes the Middlebury Charts? Here are the weekly top Napster downloads on campus.

RATING - ARTIST - ALBUM

1. The Killers - Hot Fuss - Somebody Told Me
2. Vanessa Carlton - White Houses - White Houses
3. Nelly - Suit - Over and Over
4. Maroon 5 - Songs About Jane - She Will Be Loved
5. Jars of Clay - Who We Are Instead - Jealous Kind
6. Pat McGee Band - Save Me - Beautiful Ways
7. Maroon 5 - Songs About Jane - This Love
8. Usher - Confessions [Bonus Tracks] - My Boo
9. Pat McGee Band - Shine - Rebecca
10. John Mayer - Heavier Things - Daughters



BY MATT KUNZWEILER

Room Draw 2004 shafted me and never apologized. Now I have the distinct honor of living in Coffrin Hall for yet another year. In a dorm dominated by sophomores, I am automatically categorized as "one of those weird juniors who lives in Coffrin."

I know there is some cute story behind the reason Coffrin was designed to resemble a barn — something to do with the name of the architect — but I don't care. I live in a gigantic barn and it is humiliating. And every Parents' Weekend I have to suffer through the same painful conversation with my mother:

"Isn't it neat that you go to college in rural Vermont and you actually live in a barn?"

"Very. In fact, the novelty hasn't worn off yet."

"Are you being sarcastic with me?"

"Always."

"Now stand in front of the barn while I take your photo. Wait. Who are those people you just waved at? Friends? Oh good, get them to come over here and hop in the photo with you and this ridiculous barn you now call home."

This barn is killing me. It really is.

Meanwhile, my fellow Atwater juniors live in Le Chateau — a building that looks like a French castle. I support the construction of more French castles in Vermont. We have entirely too few of them. Barns, on the other hand, we have plenty of. I would go so far as to argue that we might already have too many barns in Vermont. Coffrin is only exacerbating this problem.

Located in the coldest, most remote corner of campus, Coffrin, with its absurdly confusing design, impersonal hallways, rows of identical rooms resembling stalls in a real barn... (I could go on, but let me cut to the chase) sees no visitors. Ever.

But for those of us who have lived here a while, the design of the place is quite simple. There are three colors for each of the three sub-dorms — baby blue, mint green and a shade of orange I can only duplicate after too much sushi and tequila. These colors respectively correspond to Coffrin South, Center and North. You enter on the fourth floor, there is no first floor, and the top floor is the sixth floor — but only blue has a sixth floor. The three sub-dorms are staggered both horizontally and vertically, orange being the lowest and most northern and blue the highest and most southern. There are four stairwells marked by exit signs and nondescript doors. The two most central of these connect the fifth and forth floors of blue to green and the fourth and third floors of green to orange. If you're really good, you can use one of the several interconnected bathrooms to change sub-dorms without using a stairwell.

Board of Trustees, are you listening? Good. Next time you're about to approve a new building — think.

Facebook groups provide escape from reality

By Nura Suleiman & Isabel Yordan
Staff Writers

It's 4:27 in the morning. Where are you? Since you don't know us, we could lie and tell you that we're sleeping, but the truth of the matter is that we're on thefacebook.com. Call it pathetic, lame, even sick, but the facebook.com has become an epidemic at our quaint, remote haven, and truth be told, we don't plan on stopping it any time soon. We're obsessed. And stop lying to yourself because you know you are too.

For those of you who have yet to jump on the train, we'll provide a quick summary of the facebook and its seemingly mystical qualities. But first, please note that we speak with no authority. We are not cool and we do not know anything about anything.

That said:

1. The facebook is actual proof of just how trendy, popular and humorous you are. If you are funny on thefacebook, then you are clearly funny in real life. If you are popular on thefacebook, then the same must also be true in reality. The correlation is quite simple. Real life equals the facebook.

2. The facebook is a place to post your "look how drunk and yet put-together and, oh wait — strikingly gorgeous in a casual way" picture. If you missed this memo and actually have a good-looking photo of yourself, stop, go back to your computer and take it off. It's just plain rude and annoying. In fact, everyone is laughing at you.

3. The facebook is a place to create "groups." Not "groups" in the sense where you actually have to pay dues, follow meeting agendas and throw benefit concerts. Groups on the facebook are a whale of a different tale. They are a place to display the fact that although you do nothing with your life, you have a sense of humor and other people delight in the long hours you've spent making yourself and your club look spontaneous and fun.

Real life has chess clubs, debate clubs and glee clubs. The facebook harbors clubs like "Wait, last night...no, really...f—k," "Alcoholics not so anonymous because it's a really small campus" and the "Anti-popping collar coalition." You question why these groups are so amazing, but fret not because the answer is quite simple. The facebook feeds into the delicious vanity of its users. In the same way that having 300 plus friends makes you feel all warm and tingly inside, so does creating and being part of a group.

When you write the group description you have power. The power and ability to show people how funny you really are. Each day you can return to your facebook group and watch as the masses flock. Members and groupies alike join your cause by the hundreds. You are cool. Or so you think. Craig Wilson '07 claimed that he has "no need to see a list of [his] followers on a screen."

Joe Bergen '07.5 added, "Groups on the facebook are shameless self-promotion." Yet Courtney LaBarge '08 begs to differ. LaBarge said, "Groups foster a sense of unity and pride." Boys, we think you're wrong on this one.

We delved further into the world of facebook groups and found the messiah of facebookers — William Brennan '08. Brennan, though not actually a "friend" of ours, but clearly our hero, hosts well-known clubs like "Kill a Cat, Condition Mind to Equate Cat with a High Powered Rifle, Rob Bank with High Powered Rifle" and the "O.P.P." (The Ontario Provincial Police, for those of you not well versed in your Canadian history). Yet those clubs pale in comparison to Brennan's club, "Do Not Join This Group." Though the club clearly states that people who try to join "will be beaten in the face with no less than seven unsolved rubix cubes," the memo was missed by some. The club now has two members.

Pierce Graham-Jones '05 sums it up best, "If you're not really into human interaction, like me, groups on thefacebook.com are an excellent way to make friends. Once I'm signed on, I can show off my talents in excluding people, making fun of myself and alienating my best friends, all with a few carefully-worded posts. Best of all, I can do it without ever having to leave the library." Ah, what could be more fulfilling than being promoted to the status of "flight attendant" in a group that celebrates the illustrious career of Carl Winslow?

Yet the real question that begs to be asked is when does a group become an excuse to avoid life, and when has the madness gone just a little too far? We say as soon as the club "I wear yellow socks on the fourth Friday of the third month of the seventh year," or for that matter "I wear prescription deodorant" is formed. Until then, group away.

By Daniel Houghton

TAs assist but never teach

By Ethan Lake
Staff Writer

Teaching Assistants, known as TAs, are common to many large research universities. The term TA invokes the image of large lecture halls filled to capacity with undergraduates taught by a graduate student because the professor is too busy with research to put in any class time.

This negative image of "what college is like" is something most denizens of Middlebury College sought to avoid by selecting a liberal arts college. Imagine their

TAs assist in field work and aid students on data collection and presentation. They never teach.

— Associate Professor of Geology Patricia Manley

disappointment upon learning that Middlebury College also has TAs. Most departments, especially the natural sciences have a tradition of employing students in a TA capacity, but the system adopted at Middlebury is inherently different than those employed at major universities.

At Middlebury College TAs are generally not graduate students but juniors and seniors pursuing majors in the departments in which they work. They are paid a modest salary that comes either from the departmental budget or from the Office of Learning Resources. Sometimes they assist teachers by grading homework assignments that have specific answer keys. Perhaps the most fundamental difference is that TAs at Middlebury are truly assistants — they do not teach.

Associate Professor of Geology Patricia Manley, who is also the chair of the Geology department, stated that in her department TAs "assist in fieldwork and aid students on data collection and presentation. They never teach. Were a teacher to become ill the TA would not simply take over the lab. Another professor would be assigned or the lab would be canceled."

Daniel Scharstein, associate professor of Computer Science, said, "TAs do not teach. They help students by answering questions, and during labs they assist students in debugging codes, but that is all. If students ever have a conceptual question, I always recommend that they come to office hours and ask me."

The lab is the academic arena in which TAs are most prominent and active. A vast majority of TAs function in one way or another as lab tutors and assistants. Donovan Dums '06, a TA for Geology 170, describes his work in the lab sessions.

"Geology 170 has two lab sections, so twice a week I get the College van and drive it to Bi-Hall. Then we go into the field with the professor, and she assigns little problems that the students are supposed to figure out. I simply help them figure out what is occurring at each field site. They ask me everything from very specific geological questions to random everyday questions."

Reaction to the TAs presence and their extra assistance is usually positive. Students genuinely seem to believe that the services TAs provide are helpful. Evan Ellenberger '08, a member of the Geology 170 course that Dums assists said, "Donovan provides us with a new and helpful perspective on the questions the professor asks. Many times it is beneficial to have several angles on a problem."

Cole Simon '08, a student in Biology 195 and Computer Science 101, said "TAs are really helpful with answering questions, especially in Computer Science 101, where some students are less computer savvy and tend to have more trouble in the class."

The TA system does seem to have its flaws, however. There are currently some issues that require resolution within the TA system, such as students sometimes seeming to feel more comfortable talking with the TAs, who are fellow students, than with the professors, explained Scharstein.

Manley also reiterated this concern. "This discomfort is an unfortunate reality," she said. The students also voiced some concerns of their own. Some of the students in Computer Science 101 wish that in addition to professor evaluations for the course there were TA evaluations. One student remarked that not all of the TAs did an equal job in helping and explaining things to the class.

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

BEACH WEATHER	LAGUNA BEACH
It might seem cool the first time it snows, or even the second and the third. But by the the fourth time you'll be fantasizing about Mai Thais and the smell of Coppertone.	As if it wasn't bad enough surviving the shallowness of senior year in high school once. How can you keep your cool watching blond bimbos who can't change the tire on their Farari?
INCREASE IN VOTER TURN OUT	ELECTRONIC VOTING
Hurray for a large increase in voter turn out during this 2004 election. Too bad there was only a miniscule increase in voters within the 18 to 25 bracket.	400 votes were lost in one Georgia precinct alone. Alone! The implications are scary. We love trees and all, but not when it comes to leaving paper trails.
MYSTIC RIVER	WE WERE SOLDIERS
Possibly the most heart-rending film ever made! Thanks to MCAB for bringing such a brilliant cast and film to Dana Auditorium. And who doesn't love to see men cry?	Four napalm-deformed thumbs down for a disgusting, trite, over-the-top film brimming with terrible acting, grotesque shock-value images, oh ... and, did I mention really bad acting?

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Pat McGee Band plucks like pros

By Susan Goehring
Staff Writer

The last encounter I had with Pat McGee was in June of 2002, at the Fleet Boston Pavilion, where I was one of a crowd of nearly 17,000 college and high school students. The Pat McGee Band, opening for Middlebury College's beloved Dispatch, appeared microscopic above the mass of bobbing heads. In comparison to that experience, the Pat McGee Band's Friday night performance — virtually "private" show in the McCullough Social Space — was certainly a treat.

The show started with the opening band, Averi, taking the stage at 9 p.m. The Boston-based band — comprised of five members: Chad Perrone (lead vocals), Michael Currier (saxophone), Matthew Lydon (drums), Chris Tilden (guitar) and Stuart Berk (guitar) — performed to a small, young crowd of predominantly first-year and sophomore students. Despite their meager number, the audience thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere and seemed well-acquainted with the lyrics.

Averi, a group that has been "trying to get down and all around with their music" for the past year, has performed with bands such as Eve 6, The Goo Goo Dolls, Matchbox 20, Lisa Marie Presley and SR-71. Not a bad resumé. Their most recent major show took place on April 7, 2004, when they performed with Guster and the Barenaked Ladies at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, Mass. for a "Mass 9/11 Fund" benefit concert.

With a full-bodied, guitar-driven sound, Averi enveloped the lively crowd as saxophonist Currier conjured up the sounds of Dave Matthews Band in many instances. Averi ended their 60-minute set with an emotive rendition of U2's "With or Without You," made original by the telling vocals of Chad Perrone, who sang dolefully to a female audience member invited onstage.

A mass migration into the McCullough Social Space from the Grille and other areas brought a greater mélange of students in to see the featured group. Pat McGee Band performed a total of 16 songs, drawn from all four of their albums, including tracks from their most recent, "Save Me," which was released April 6, 2004. The popular tune, "Rebecca," was creatively introduced with a medley of cuts from Bob Marley's "Could This Be Love?" and John Mellencamp's "Jack and Diane." The set included two encore performances — an extended version of "Shine" and a cover of the Eagle's hit "Heartache Tonight." But the highlight of the entire show was an amazing cover of Fleetwood Mac's "The Chain," which would have made Stevie Nicks and the McVies smile with approval.

The Pat McGee Band, a group from Virginia, formally got together in March of 1996. Band members Pat McGee, Brian Fechino, John Small, Chardy McEwan, Chris Williams and Todd Wright have produced four albums collaboratively, with one solo album, titled "From the Wood," released by McGee in 1995.

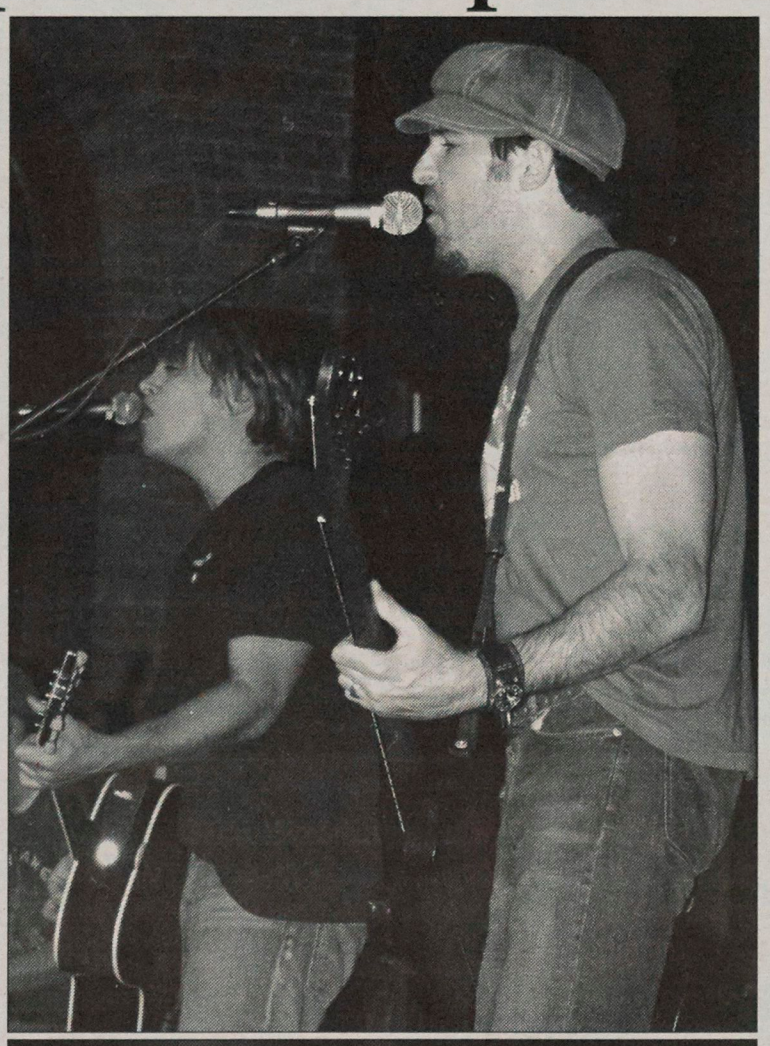
The band appeared relaxed and comfortable onstage, and interacted frequently with the fans. During the encore, McGee noticed one audience member waving his cell phone, in the fashion of any good Jessica Simpson fan. McGee asked for the phone, spoke with the person on the other end and proceeded to hold the distant fan audibly captive while he finished "Shine." Pat McGee Band seemed to enjoy the performance as much as the audience members did, if not more.

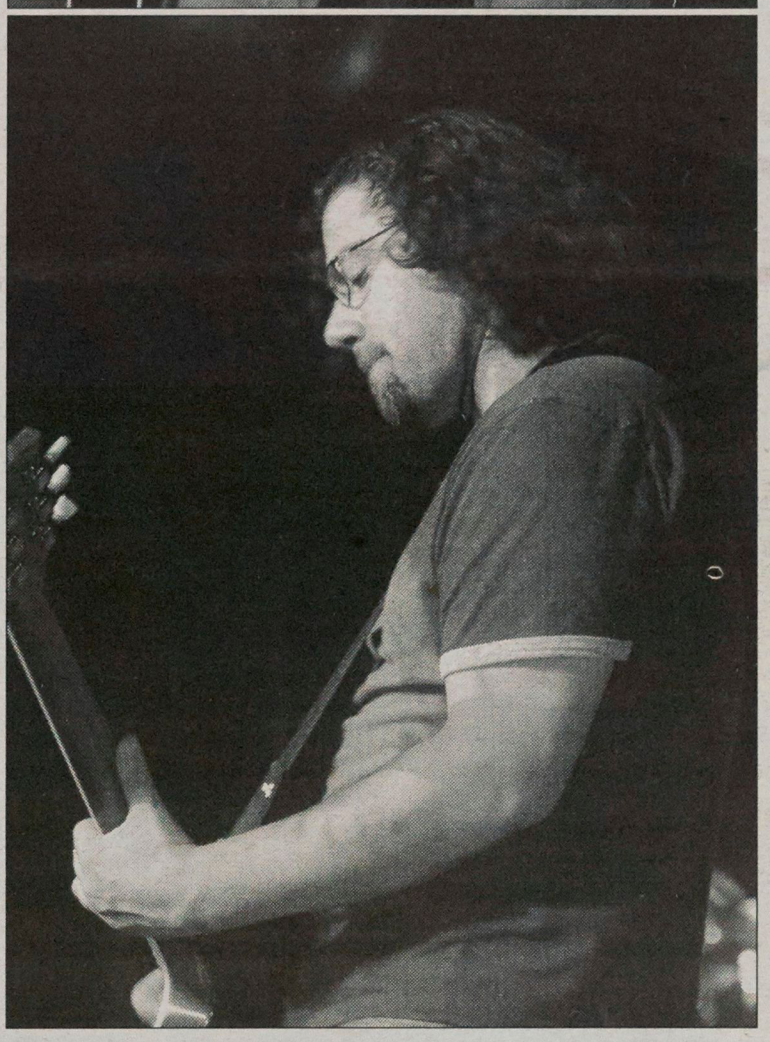
The folk rock band expresses a gentle sense of southern-inspired twang on their albums. Yet during live performances, it articulates an edgier, more energetic tone. The crowds never cease to eat up their skill and enthusiasm, no matter how large (or small) they might be.

The Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) Concert Chair J. Brito '06 was "very pleased with audience turnout" and noted that the Board used a MCAB Club cardholder discount program to attract students to the event. MCAB sent out e-mails to the cardholders offering a free ticket with the price of one regular admission. "One of the main goals for MCAB is to provide programming that the whole campus can enjoy at a negligible price, and I think this show met and exceeded that goal," Brito said.

Despite admittedly getting lost and encountering snow on the way to Middlebury, Pat McGee Band gave a solid show that effused their now-veteran status.

The band then headed from Vermont to Gettysburg College, for their next show. Averi would perform Saturday night at the Pickle Barrel in Killington, Vt. before traveling to Boston and Philadelphia for shows this week.





Members of the Pat McGee band, singer Pat McGee (left), guitarrist Brian Fechino (above) and bassist John Small (top) played to a small audience in McCullough Friday, Nov. 5. Pat McGee Band, which hails from Virginia, has opened for a number of larger acts over the past few years and has made the rounds of college campuses throughout the eastern seaboard, touring relentlessly. The band's latest album, "Save Me," was released earlier this year on Warner Bros. Records.

Photos by Albert Bitici

Clemmons delivers concert ribbed with personal emotion

By Rose Boyer
Staff Writer

Concert goers who attended Samuel Barber's composition, "Knoxville: Summer 1915," on the evening of Friday, Nov. 6, found themselves soothingly immersed in the sentiments of the South. "The songs I am about to sing, come right out of the red states. I, too, come from the red states, but I live in the blue states," explained Middlebury's own diva-man and Twighlight Artist in Residence François Clemmons. Clemmons, accompanied by pianist Cynthia Huard, assistant in Music, sang "Barber's Tableau" and a selection of other songs by Barber and Aaron Copeland.

Barber's composition, set on selections from Southern writer James Agee's *A Death in the Family,* strives to evoke a uniquely American reverie of childhood in a small Southern town. It begins, "It has become that time of evening when people sit on their porches, rocking gently and talking gently and watching the street and the standing up into their sphere of possession of the trees, of birds hung havens, hangars," and continues in this nostalgic, dream-like language, striving to imitate childhood memories.

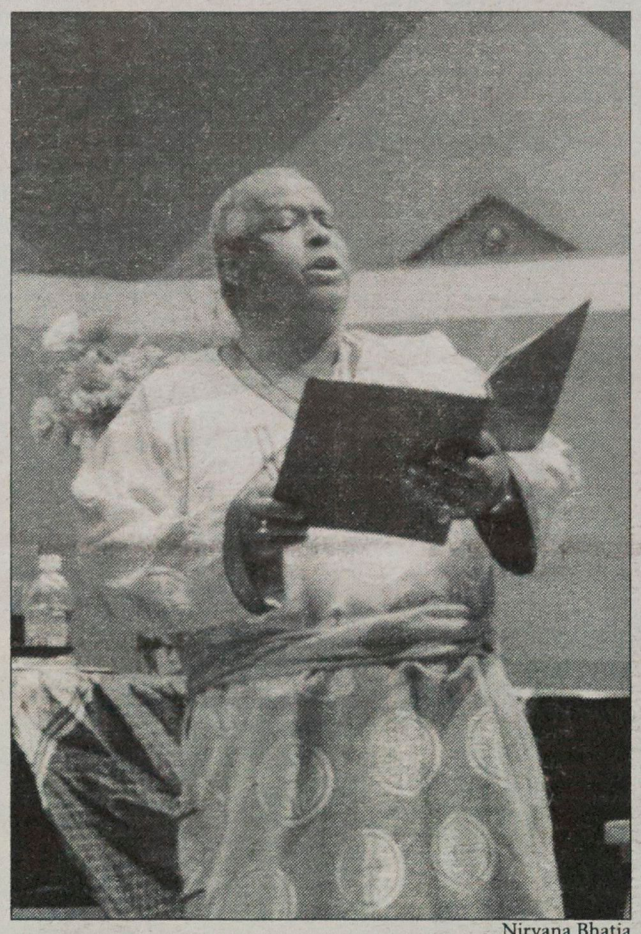
Clemmons, who entered the stage like a rising sun, dressed in a brilliant, golden Mongolian robe, said that performing Barber's piece was particularly special to him. He heard it for the first time when he was in the seventh grade and his school showed a movie recording of the performance. Clemmons loved the piece immediately, and has continued to appreciate it because in many ways it captures his own autobiographical cycle. In the broadest sense, Clemmons shares Barber and Agee's feelings towards childhood and, more specifically, although not exclusively, Southern childhood. "Youth presents one of the great paradoxes of creation: We have — are born with — so much and have so little control. We know so much innately and yet have everything to learn," said Clemmons.

Clemmons revealed an even deeper personal investment in Friday's performance when he explained that the first five songs he chose for the concert were expressive of a painful break-up — an ended love affair.

Another theme of Barber's composition is its treatment of the question, "Who am I?" Clemmons said that this question was not only a theme of his own childhood, but a constant challenge throughout his life, especially as a gay man in a sometimes homophobic society. "Samuel Barber" also "was a gay man," said Clemmons. He suggested that perhaps this shared identity "filters through on some cosmic level," further explaining why he so closely identifies with the piece.

Clemmons revealed an even deeper personal investment in Friday's performance when he explained that the first five songs he chose for the concert were expressive of a recent break-up — an ended love affair that was "the most painful thing" that he has ever experienced. But Clemmons insisted on making the most of this pain through artistic expression. Not only did this experience come through in Clemmons' singing, but he said it has also inspired him to begin writing his memoirs, or rather his "autobiographical folk tale."

At the close of the concert, Clemmons and Huard performed three spirituals, which nearly brought Huard's page-turner to tears. Although Barber's composition and the other songs were all beautiful in themselves, Clemmons' willingness to share his emotions and personal experience to identify his connection to the music made a real impact on the audience. After hearing the concert, Memory Peebles '06 remarked, "I feel cleansed."



Nirvana Bhatia

ABOVE: Clemmons stole the show in his lively performance of Barber's classic piece.
BELOW: Pianist Cynthia Huard accompanied a Mongolian-robe-clad Clemmons throughout the evening.

BLOWIN' INDIE WIND

BY RICHARD LAWLESS, ARTS EDITOR

THE ARTIST | DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE
THE ALBUM | TRANSATLANTICISM
RELEASE DATE | 2003

Take a jaunt across the country with me for a minute, to a lovely coastal city named Bellingham, Wash. Situated in the Pacific Northwest, just a tiny bit south of the Canadian border, Bellingham is foggy, rainy and often chilly. But despite these rather dreary features, Bellingham also has a breathtaking waterfront. It should be of no surprise that melancholic post-emo-ers Death Cab for Cutie hail from such a city, where bleak weather meshes with stunning scenery, as this concept is frequently reflected in their often gentle, sometimes discordant and always lyrically-despondent music.

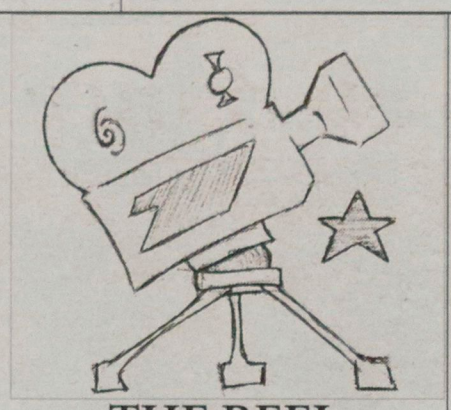
Four albums into their career, Death Cab for Cutie have never produced incredibly bright or happy music, and this trend shows no signs of alleviating on their latest release, "Transatlanticism." But while their previous releases, most notably their last LP, "The Photo Album," were plagued with a whiny melodramatic tendency that jeopardized the overall emotional impact of their works, "Transatlanticism" finds the group creating a highly cohesive and masterfully-executed mature album.

Fresh from his notoriously successful, but ultimately overrated, electronic-pop side project The Postal Service (with Dntel mastermind Jimmy Tamborello), Death Cab for Cutie frontman Ben Gibbard sounds revitalized and ready to confront the rock music genre once again. The album opens with a dramatically thunderous clatter of guitars, announcing that the Cab is back and ready to tackle some emotional angst. Gibbard chimes in soon after, with the unmistakably discontented couplet, "So this is the New Year/And I don't feel any different."

The guitars fade into a gentle wash of feedback that leads into the disarmingly lovely "Lightness." As the minimalist guitars chime along to haunting synthesizer noise, and Gibbard's voice echoes eerily in the background, you realize how exquisitely this album is produced, and the breathtaking elements of Death Cab for Cutie's music becomes all the more clear. Following close on the heels of "Lightness" is "Title & Registration," which features an electronic drum loop and Gibbard's trademark nasal crooning. The song could easily be a discarded Postal Service track with subtle guitars replacing Tamborello's bleeps and clicks.

The eight-minute long title track, with its crawling pace and forlorn piano eventually joined by Gibbard and ghostly synthesizers swirling in the background, is "Transatlanticism"'s undisputed centerpiece. Around the six-minute mark, the song turns into an anthemic sing-a-long, with Gibbard (now joined by a small chorus) repeating the phrase "So come on…" while drums and guitars loop around and around, creating an intoxicating ending. "Two gorgeously downbeat songs, the lush "Tiny Vessels" and the piano-driven "Passenger Seat", flank "Transatlanticism". As a trio, these three songs present a breathtaking and suitably subdued climax to the album. "We Looked Like Giants" is yet another love tale complete with deliciously over-miced drums and churning pianos.

Contrasting with the crashing bravado of the opening number, "Transatlanticism"'s final track, "A Lack of Color" is perhaps the gentlest song on the album. Gibbard is accompanied by a tranquil acoustic guitar, with quietly whirring synthesizers hidden underneath, providing a poignant closing to one heck of a melancholic journey. Beginning with a bang, ending in a whisper, with both ends emerging from a haze of background synths, "Transatlanticism" is Death Cab for Cutie's finest release to date. Gibbard's lyrics have never been more poetic and touching, their songs have never been stronger, and their largely improved production has given them the flowery quality that their songs had been lacking since their debut. On "Transatlanticism," everything comes together, and then dissolves again after 47 minutes of emotional bloodletting.



THE REEL CRITIC

BY STEPHANIE DOSCH

MOVIE | THE INCREDIBLES
DIRECTOR | BRAD BIRD
STARRING | PIXAR

As I sat in the Marquis Theater, surrounded mostly by people at least two age brackets below me, I noticed a strange phenomenon. No giggles, no shrieks of delight. The children of Middlebury were *quiet*.

I, however, was enjoying myself immensely as I watched "The Incredibles," Pixar Studios' newest movie. I can't say I was surprised at my own reaction. Pixar is known for consistently producing films as entertaining for parents as they are for the children they accompany. And I had heard that as Pixar's first PG-rated movie, "The Incredibles" was even more adult than its predecessors. But I must admit it was more grown-up than I expected — more "James Bond" than "James and the Giant Peach."

That's not to say that children won't enjoy the movie, as it is pure, fun, action-packed entertainment. But the jokes were definitely geared towards an older crowd. One line that serves as a fine example — "Let's take shots every time we see ourselves on TV" — went right over the heads of the tots: hence the unexpected, but extremely pleasant silence.

"The Incredibles" puts a new spin on an old genre by focusing on the private lives of superheroes. The very powers that make Batman, Superman and Spiderman great also make them social outcasts. Pixar runs with this idea, focusing on the Incredibles' secret identities, which are more "witness protection program"-like than "alter-ego" in this case.

The Incredibles are forced into hiding when society begins to blame superheroes for their personal problems. Mr. Incredible (voiced by Craig T. Nelson) becomes Bob Parr, who works a ho-hum 9-to-5 job at an insurance company instead of working out. His wife Helen (Holly Hunter), formerly Elastigirl, is a soccer-mom housewife who looks after the kids — Violet, who can become invisible, Dash, who can run with amazing speed and baby Jack-Jack.

Bob's normal suburban life is disrupted when he receives a mysterious message from a sexy Mirage asking him to resurrect Mr. Incredible for a job. Helen gets suspicious and tracks Bob to a remote island, her children stowed away on the plane. When they realize Bob has been tricked and is being held captive by Syndrome (Jason Lee), a Mr. Incredible-obsessed fan turned psycho, the family must team up to save him. (Cue Disney message about family values and using your talents). The power of each member of the Incredible family complements the powers of the rest, so while they are effective on their own, they really kick some butt when they're together. Thankfully, the message comes across through funny, high-action adventure, rather than through sappy speeches.

As usual, the details are what make "The Incredibles" great — references to "Return of the Jedi" and "X-Men," an old-school feel and Pixar's amazing sets and animation come to mind. Hilarious secondary characters like Frozone (Samuel L. Jackson), Mr. Incredible's longtime pal, and Edna Mode — an eccentric superhero suit designer clearly modeled after famous Paramount fashion designer Edith Head — add to it all, making "The Incredibles" one incredible movie.

Popular music and the presidency

By Hans Manzke
Staff Writer

Countless pundits have put in many hours pumping political blather based on personal opinion through "bipartisan" media outlets. In other words, 2004 has been a year rife with hypotheticals and unknowns. What is concrete is that the country was sharply divided. This divide extends to the music industry, a sector that often functions as a faithful, accurately representative microcosm of larger societal trends and realities. This year, acts and artists found themselves divided along party lines, many expressing their views through their lyrics. Whether it was through politically oriented tours, incisive creative material, or speaking out to the media, the music industry was involved in the political process as it never has been before.

Of those artists who declared a political preference, the lion's share seemed to be firmly in the Democratic camp.

The youth vote was, until this election, one of the most ignored sectors of the electorate. Music artists have the ability to reach the crucial 18-24 age group like few others. As such, this year saw not only campaign coordinators, but artists themselves touting their candidate of choice. Such a direct political statement is unheard of from the entertainment industry.

A clear political dichotomy exists — pop queens, country stars and cock rockers like Steven Tyler, Ted Nugent, Lee Ann Womack, Britney Spears, Sara Evans, Kid Rock and Lynyrd Skynyrd back Bush, while just about every other artist, or so it seemed, supported Kerry. As of September, the Beastie Boys, The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jon Bon Jovi, Eminem, the Dixie Chicks, Justin Timberlake, Madonna, Chris Martin, Missy Elliot, Neil Young, Ozzy Osbourne and Wyclef Jean had all made it clear they leaned left. Of those artists who declared a political preference, the lion's share seemed to be firmly in the Democratic camp.

All signs pointed to an excruciatingly close race. This perhaps favored Kerry. His approval rating increased steadily while Bush's fell through but the year, as debacle after debacle in Iraq took place. The economy continued to suffer as W. turned a $400 billion dollar surplus into a $250 billion dollar deficit. With all of these things in mind, on Nov. 3 many were left bewildered as to how Bush eked out his narrow victory. A part of the answer lies within the minds of young voters, and ostensibly their influences.

As previously stated, the effort made on the music industry's part to register young voters and get them to actually vote was larger and more profound than ever before. Bruce Springsteen headlined the Vote for Change tour, innovative for the fact that its concert dates were intirely within six swing states. Large multi-show tours and festivals featured booths or entire areas aimed at registering young voters and informing them of political realities. P. Diddy embodied the social awakening of mainstream hip-hop, simultaneously taking the message of the necessity of political involvement to the oft-neglected inner cities of America and spawning the ubiquitous "Vote or Die" T-shirts. Going into the November election, things looked bright for Kerry and his supporters. Though aging, he had "hipped up" his image by appearing with popular musicians at events and letting them speak on his behalf. By reaching into the entertainment industry, Kerry positively identified what is arguably one of the strongest influences in the lives of young people.

All these things aside, John Kerry still lost, conceding victory to a smiling George Bush. The numbers show some surprising and depressing facts. While the overall number of votes cast in 2004 was up from 100 to 120 million, the percentage of registered voters ages 18-24 remained static. While organizations like the MTV-featured Rock the Vote and Springsteen-backed Vote for Change claimed victory, their goal remain unachieved.

This is the most polarized our country has been since Nixon's presidency. So logically one would expect a proportionally higher voter turnout. However, the critical youth vote, so difficult to effectively mobilize, remained proportionally apathetic to previous elections.

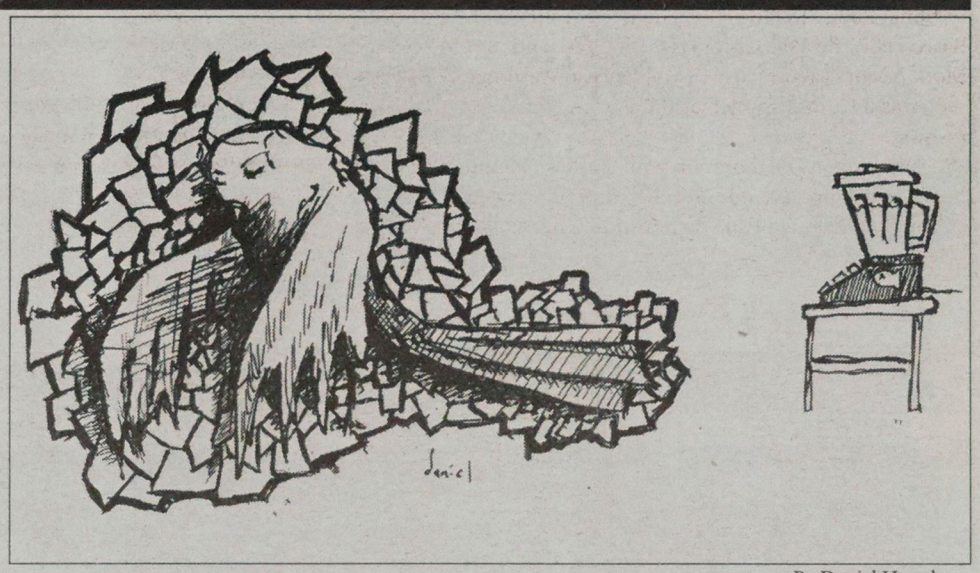
In light of these facts, did the huge push on the part of candidates in conjunction with various artists have no effect?

Only time will tell. True, more youth voters voted this time around. But will their impact be felt more or less in the future, and will the music industry become a fixture in influencing youth voter registration and voting?

is it art?

A LOOK AT THOSE WHO DARE TO STRETCH THE CREATIVE

By Abbie Beane
Associate Editor



By Daniel Houghton

For this week's "Is it Art," all joking should be expressly forbidden, considering the fact that these disturbing new works of "art" are raising a few too many hairs. So what's little Tommy up to in his innocuous art class as of late? Sculpting a coil pot? Making a colorful collage? Skinning cats in order to evoke the classroom's "artistic" spiritual aura?! Perhaps. While some people virtuously call it "killing for art," others scornfully brand it as simple animal cruelty.

To give a few examples, in May 2003 a student at the Victorian College of Arts in Australia killed a live chicken in front of a full classroom as part of his performance piece. A Danish Museum Director was accused of animal cruelty after housing a goldfish-in-a-blender art installation. And Ukraine-born Nathalia Edenmont was reported to public prosecutors in December 2003 by the Swedish Veterinary Association for failing to have a veterinarian present while killing the animals she uses for her photography projects. The photograph that has provoked the strongest reactions portrays a hand with the head of a dead mouse stuck on each finger. Bjoern Wetterling, owner of the Stockholm gallery that exhibited Edenmont's photographs, said the work is meant to symbolize the five stars of the former Soviet Union, which he claimed was responsible for the murder of Edenmont's mother when the artist was only 14 years-old.

While these practices may seem inhumane regardless of their "higher purposes," the "artists" and their supporters have justified their projects with the usual, elaborate "word and thought art."

As for the chicken incident, according to Sherry Morse at the Animal News Center, the gallery owner asserted that the artist's work involving the killing of animals was "very important." Important because "the galleries that exhibit the work of animal-killing artists believe that the images created using the dead animals arouse thoughts and questions that the viewers might not otherwise have had, and, therefore, these works are art." Morse reported the gallery owner as saying, "I have tried to get her to work with larger animals, like dogs."

Attempts to justify the killing of animals strictly for art (of course) argue that "the pictures reflect the shallowness and double standards held by a society which objects to animals being killed to create pictures, but not to the killing of animals for food or clothing," according to Morse.

Many of the students in the Victorian College of Arts class were so repulsed, though, that they immediately reported the "artist" to the RSPCA. Sue Baker, head of the arts department, stated, "We've come down hard on this student and said, 'You don't do this for art, you do it for food, and it is offensive for anything to do with cruelty to animals to be portrayed as art.'"

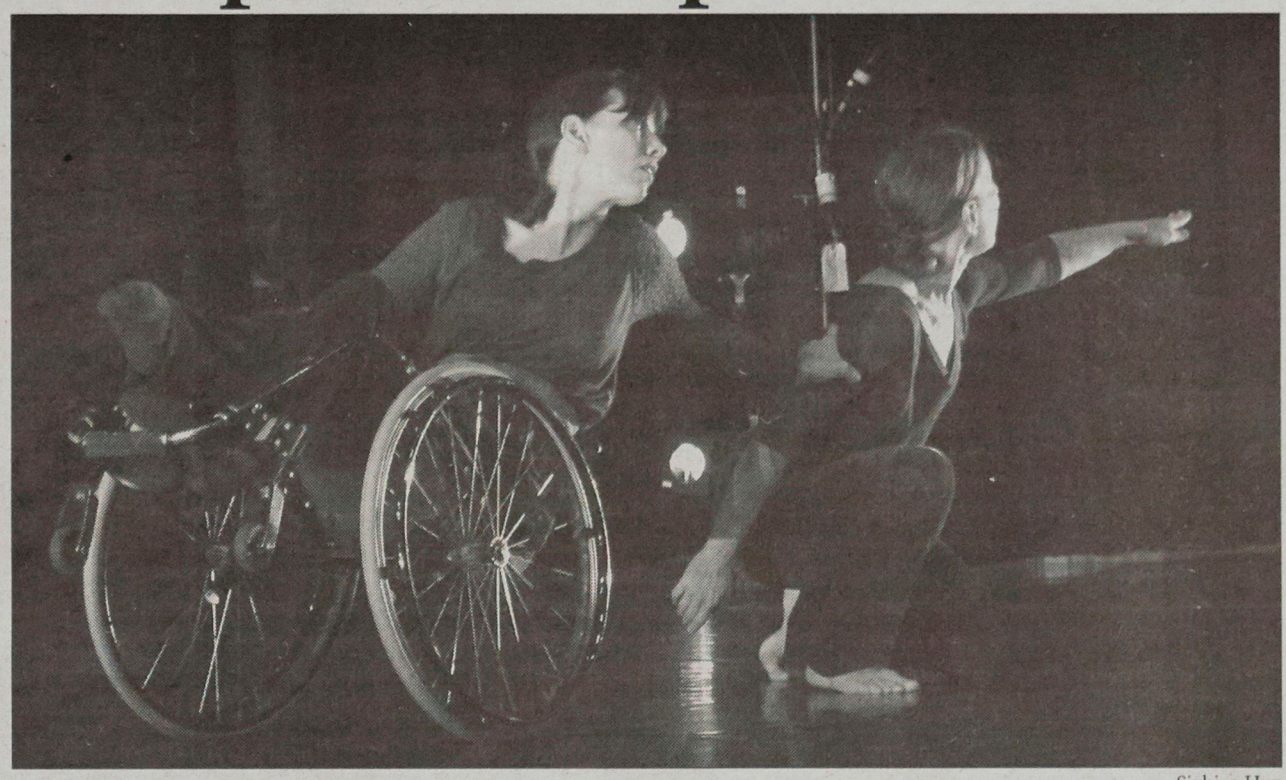
The animals in Sweden may not be cut such a lucky break. Wetterling predicts that Edenmont will continue her practice despite the fact that Johan Beck-Friis, spokesman for the Veterinary Association, said that Edenmont was violating rules regulating the use of animals for public viewing. Beck-Friis also pointed out that "when animals are killed for purposes of public entertainment, a veterinarian has to be present to ensure that the animal doesn't suffer." Nevertheless, Wetterling believes that Edenmont's work is important because it highlights the hypocrisy of the debate on animal rights. "Is it better to kill animals for makeup than for creating art?" he asked. "These people forget that art is food for the soul."

Of course! In that case it's fine.

It isn't easy to bring closure to this species of discussion. But it seems to me that the real question here is not whether a fleshed-out flounder is or is not art. That will depend upon your personal reaction to it. The question is, where do we draw the line at killing animals? We are agreed that they shouldn't suffer and that vegetarians definitely have no right to wear fur, and probably the majority agree that food is a good enough reason to kill. But do we need to kill the animals we will use only for that soft boa or that brilliant epiphany? Should we answer these questions on a case by case basis or create a universal rule? And how far will "art" be traveling a few years down the road? Maybe someday it will be socially acceptable to inflict harm on another student in order to achieve some kind of intellectual or emotional clarity. Maybe only spiritual clarity will qualify. Sure, let's draw the line right — there.

Light Motion show puts new spin on dance

By Alexandra Hay
Staff Writer



Sixhiao Huo

Charlene Curtiss, who dance despite her confinement to a wheelchair, performed as part of the fourth annual Accessibility Awareness Week, last Saturday night in the Center for the Arts Dance Theatre.

Electronic laughter echoed through the Center for the Art's Dance Theatre last Saturday night, Nov. 6 as Light Motion and the Bill Evans Dance Concert transported audience members to an other-worldly place.

A sheet of blue light spanned the back wall and silver spokes flickered in the light, throwing flashes all over the stage as Charlene Curtiss, wheelchair dancer, moved in fluid, balletic harmony with Joanne Petroff. Bill Evans followed this first piece, entitled "Laughing Game," in a performance of "Excursions." Evans merrily strolled onstage while his feet, seemingly disconnected from the rest of his body, delicately tapped out impossibly intricate rhythms. The clackety-clack of the metal taps seemed to skim the floor more lightly than fingers across a keyboard, while Evan's jolly grin and bobbing head floated freely above it all. Don Halquist added a somber, heroic feel to the opening collection of dances, when he moved through Evans choreography in a shimmering gold pantsuit.

The performance was part of the fourth annual Accessibility Awareness Week, organized by Kate Stamper '04.5 to raise awareness of accessibility issues on campus. Other events of the week included film screenings, luncheon panels and discussions, and Saturday's "Wheel-A-Thon," in which teams of Middlebury students completed a wheelchair obstacle course in Kenyon Arena. Stamper first saw Light Motion perform in Seattle, and wanted to bring the group to Middlebury "so that students and local residents [would be] exposed to the incredible accomplishments of individuals with disabilities. It's important to raise awareness of the possibilities rather than the limitations of life in a wheelchair," she said.

While watching Curtiss fly across the stage, spinning to a stop at the last possible moment before gliding on with ease and grace, the achievements people can accomplish, even while spending life in a wheelchair, quickly became apparent.

Curtiss has been in a wheelchair since a gymnastics accident in high school, but she has not allowed that part of her life to inhibit her desire to perform and express herself through dance. Curtiss has been choreographing, performing and teaching integrated dance since 1985. Previously a public defense lawyer, Curtiss left the practice of law to commit to dance full-time in 1989, performing and leading workshops for disabled and non-disabled dancers around the world. An active advocate for the empowerment of artists with disabilities, she has appeared on numerous national television and radio programs, including National Public Radio (NPR), the NBC Today Show and CNN. Based in Seattle, Wa., Curtiss is the founder and director of Light Motion, works as an artist-in-residence in Washington State and serves as a Commissioner of the Washington State Arts Commission.

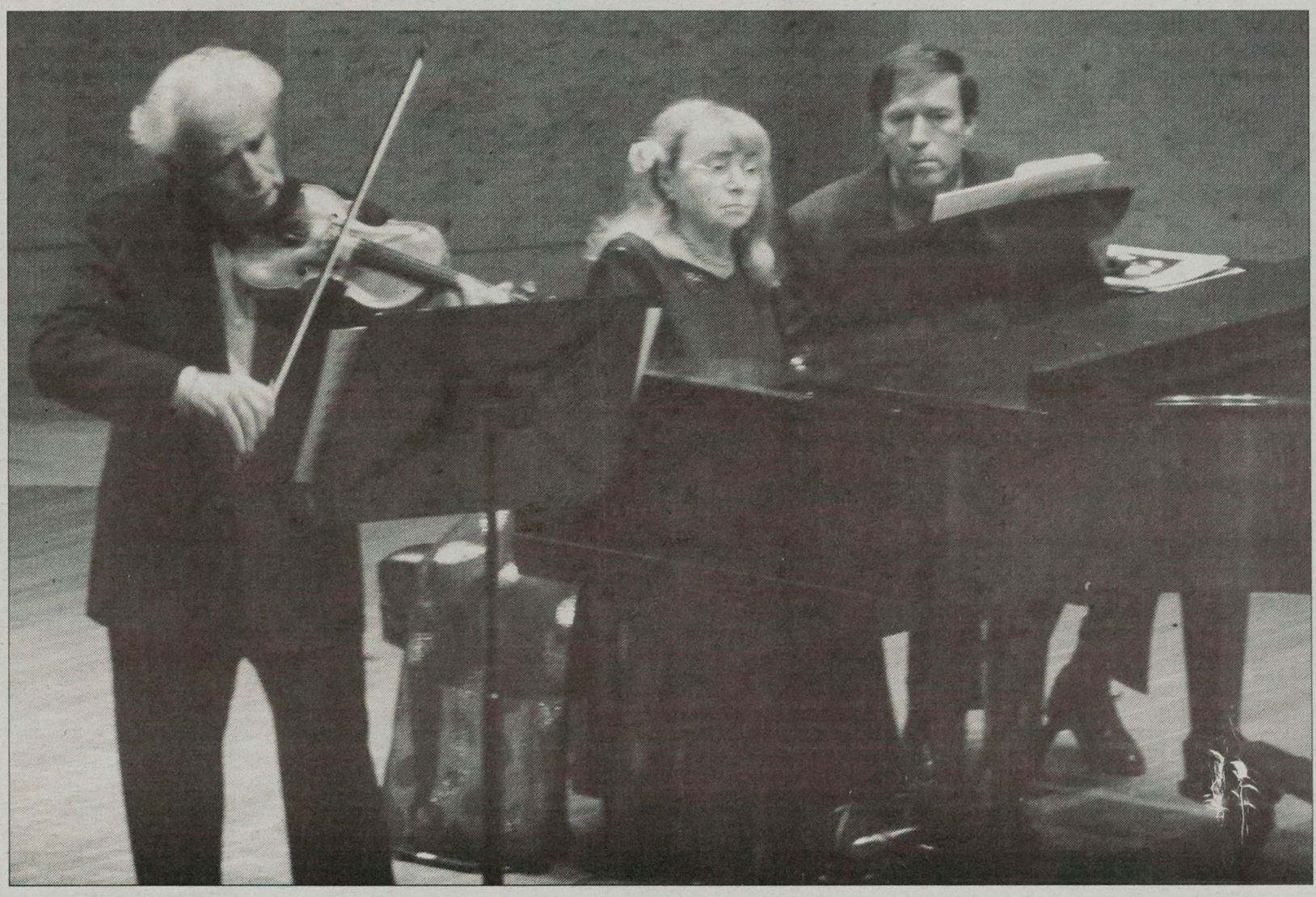
Working in collaboration with Curtiss, Joanne Petroff has made the dance community aware of integrated wheelchair dance. Saturday night she demonstrated her skill and ability as a dancer in her own right while smoothly partnering Curtiss in all but one of Curtiss' pieces. Co-founder and Artistic Director of Whistlestop Dance, Petroff has danced with numerous dance companies, including Xoregos Dance Co., Ann Wyman Dance Co. and Danceworks N.W. Petroff currently performs with Light Motion and the celebrated family music group, Tickle Tune Typhoon.

Curtiss has been in a wheelchair since a gymnastics accident in high school, but she has not allowed that part of her life to inhibit her desire to perform.

Founder of the Bill Evans Dance Company, Bill Evans is currently a visiting professor at the State University of New York-Brockport, professor emeritus at the University of New Mexico, permanent guest artist in the professional program of Winnipeg's School of Contemporary Dancers and Artistic Director of the annual Bill Evans Dance Intensives and Evans Technique Certification Program at Centrum in Port Townsend, Wa. Evans has received the Guggenheim Fellowship and numerous other fellowships and grants. Watching the ease and control with which Evans moves around the stage, effortlessly tapping out rhythms with his feet, it is easy to see that he has had a long and happy relationship with his body, leading to a comfortable and generous stage presence.

Also boasting a beautiful, majestic stage presence, Don Halquist pursues interests offstage as well. He is assistant professor of early childhood education at the State University of New York College-Brockport. A member of the Evans Company for the past nine years, Halquist is currently working toward a Ph.D in Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies at the University of New Mexico, where he has taught Evans' Modern Dance Technique. He also works as a free-lance graphic designer, a consultant to public schools and an arts administrator.

The performance wrapped up with a piece entitled "Jukebox," choreographed by -Evans to music arranged and recorded by Glenn Miller and his orchestra. With Vaudeville hilarity and pantomime, dancers dressed in 1950s attire hopped and skipped across the stage with huge grins cracking their faces in two. The obvious enjoyment the dancers experienced brimmed over to the audience, which grinned along with the joking fun, happily reassured that not all dance is incomprehensible.

A Classical Evening

Sixiao Huo

Launching into a piece by Brahms, violinist Lazar Gosman and pianist Natasha Koval Paden delivered a striking performance Thursday, Nov. 4 in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Gosman founded the Soviet Emigre Orchestra, now the Tchaikovsky Orchestra, of which Paden is a member. In addition to Brahms, the pair played Beethoven, Shostakovich, Stravinsky and Britten.

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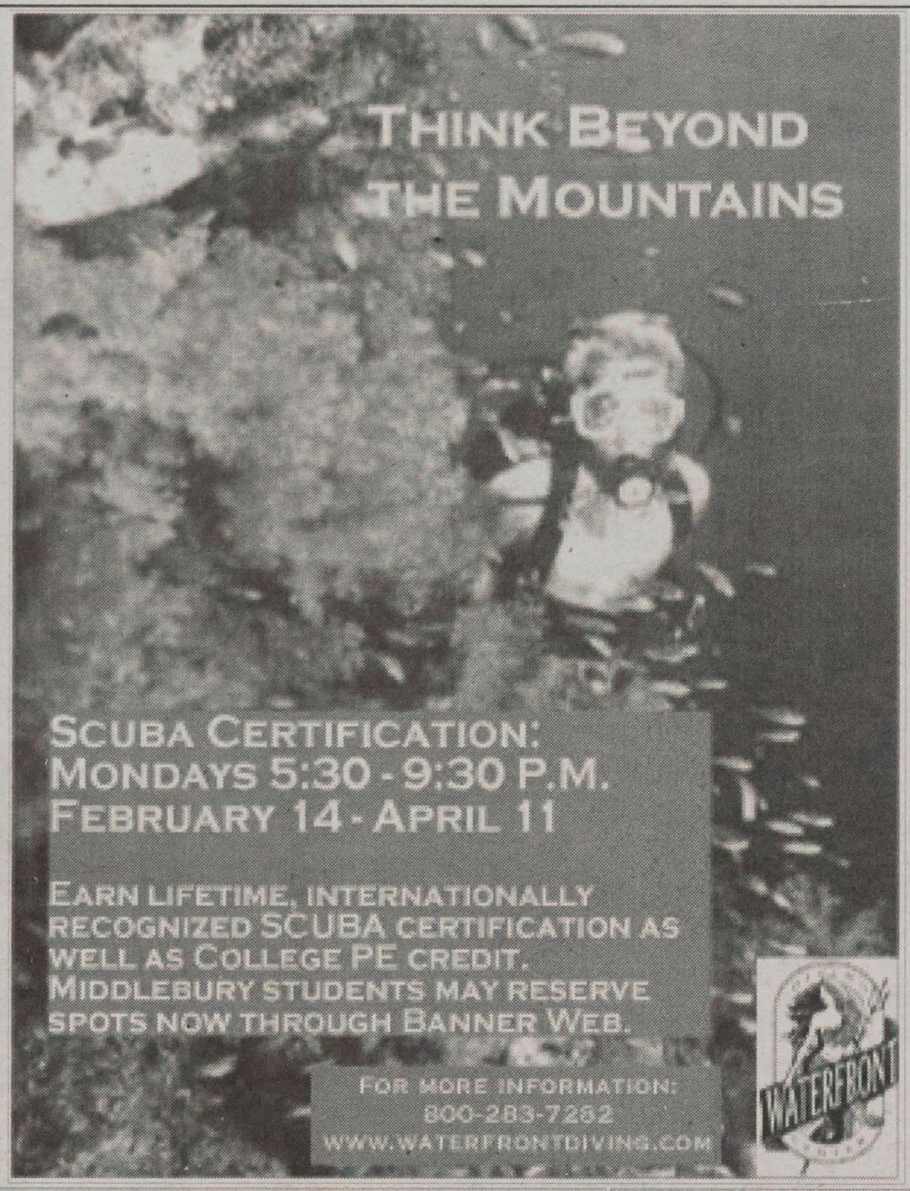
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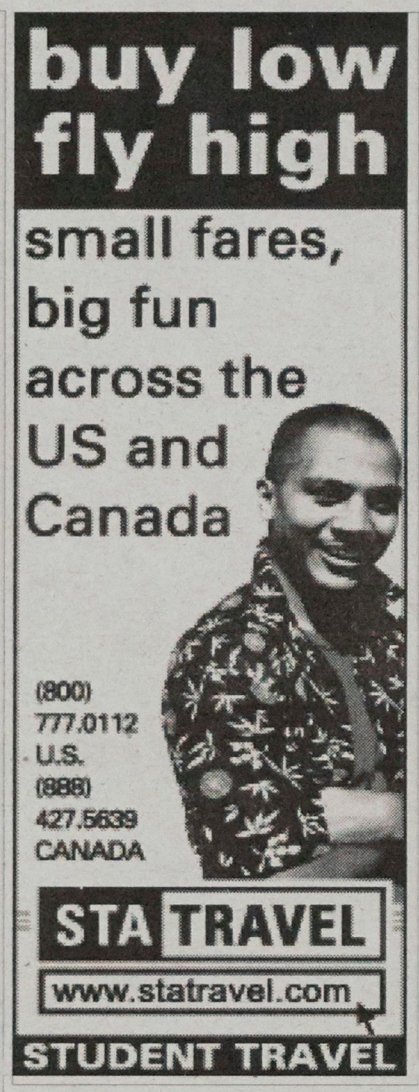

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Women's cross country dashes to second

First-year Danaher leads pack of Panthers to impressive ECAC finish

By Christopher Dowd
Staff Writer

With their top six runners resting for the weekend, the Middlebury women's cross country team placed second in this weekend's Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championships. The Panthers finished close behind rival Williams who took home first in the 30-team event. Tufts hosted the six-kilometer event on its challenging Grafton course.

First-year Ceara Danaher (23:15) led the Panthers with a fourth place finish despite having never run a 6k event in her life. Head Coach Terry Aldrich described the first-year's radiant running as a "downright phenomenal race, one of the fastest ever by a Middlebury woman on that course."

Following Danaher was junior Claire Anderson (23:33) and sophomore Alison Brown (23:46), finishing ninth and 12th respectively. Much like Danaher the two showed great improvement and ran quality races. Most notably, Brown finished a whole minute ahead of her time in the same race from last year, further exhibiting the determination of these often forgotten Middlebury runners.

With the top six rested, Danaher and company strived to run harder and lead the team. "It made a difference for us to know we had a big effect on team scoring and placing," she said.

Rounding out the Middlebury top five were sophomore Claire Schultz (23:56) and junior Julia McKinnon (23:56), finishing 15th and 16th respectively to place five Panther runners in the top 20.

Aldrich called the weekend a "great success" in further resting his top runners and getting a great performance from the rest of the squad. His middle six were developed both "physically and mentally," and worn runners like Jess Manzer '05 and Marisa Cawley '05 earned the rare chance to "regroup" for the weekend.

Regardless of an impressive second place finish, what appears most important about this past weekend is the added preparation this Panther squad earned for next weekend's massive New England regionals.

The team's entire season comes down to one day of racing next Saturday, competing against New England's best to qualify for the National Championship. Middlebury will be competing against rivals Williams and Amherst, as well as other NESCAC powers Colby and Wesleyan.

Renowned for his training techniques, Aldrich has specifically designed this season's running for his girls to peak leading into this weekend.

"At this point they've done all they need to in terms of mileage. We've established the base, and now just need to focus and stick to our pace," said Aldrich.

The only team that has beaten the Panthers all year has been Williams, and Aldrich's training will be put to the final test when Middlebury lines up against the Ephs this weekend. The women have improved against Williams throughout the season, losing big early and then meriting a tie in the NESCAC championships. The hope is that this improvement will continue as planned, and the Panthers will peak past Williams this weekend.

Courtesy

The women's cross country team lines up at last weekend's ECAC championships at Tufts. The team took second place at the race, following the powerhouse Williams team. The team should be well rested for Nationals.

Manzer has confidence in the process, noting, "We will be rested and ready, and our tie against Williams was indicative of the progress we have made and will continue to make."

The Panthers have been successful throughout the entire season, and now, much like last year's team they go into the home stretch confident to finally reap the benefits of months of hard work. Beginning this week, Aldrich and his girls will look to avenge their loss to Williams, and defend the National Championship title they currently possess.

Men's soccer falls to Ephs in tourney finals

By David Freedman
Staff Writer

The men's soccer team saw its season abruptly end on Sunday with a 1-0 loss at the hands of Williams in the finals of the NESCAC Tournament.

The Ephs received the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Championships while the Panthers, with a record of 12-3-2, were unable to garner an at-large bid from the selection committee.

Middlebury was ranked 16th in the nation coming into the weekend, two spots higher than eventual at-large selection Wheaton (Mass.).

"Overall, as a team, they were superior," Head Coach Dave Saward said of the team's efforts this season. "They worked tirelessly for one another. They will look back on this as a very memorable year. As the dust settles they will appreciate that they were a part of something that was quite special."

The Panthers reached the championship game by soundly defeating Bowdoin 2-0, a school that Middlebury had not beaten since 2000.

Tri-captain Derek Cece '06 indirectly got the Panthers on the board in the first half, after he launched a ball into the Polar Bear's box that bounced off a Bowdoin defender for an own-goal. In the 52nd minute of the match Kellan Florio '05 broke down two defenders inside the opposition's 18 and sent a curving ball into the net to make it 2-0.

A spectacular day by senior keeper Craig Hirsh and the rest of the Middlebury defense held the Polar Bears scoreless, preserving the team's ninth shut out victory of the year.

Hirsh helped weather an offensive onslaught by Bowdoin in the first twenty minutes and gave the Panthers the momentum they needed to finish off a team that had ended their season in 2003.

Williams, the winner of four straight NESCAC championships, got off to a strong start against the Panthers as well, but again Middlebury was resolute and went into the break with a 0-0 tie.

Nearly 15 minutes into the second half the Ephs found the back of the net. A ball sent into the 18 deflected around the box till one Williams' senior flicked a ball to Sky Riggs, who headed home the game's only tally.

"We came so close to making the tournament," said tri-captain John Rusten '05 about missing an NCAA at-large bid.

"Unfortunately," he continued, "there are teams left out that are every bit as good as those who are in. This year we just happened to fall into that category."

Although Middlebury looked sharp in the game's final 45 minutes, the team could not get an equalizer. The team's best chance came on a header of its own from John Sales '07, but his valiant attempt clanged off the crossbar.

"The Williams match was a contest of two halves," Saward said. "They were far better than us in the first, beating us to every ball and it was only thanks to some resolute defending that the score was still tied at the half. In the second half, even though we gave up a goal, we created many more opportunities and we dictated the tempo better than in the first half. Williams proved very difficult to break down."

The Panthers lose eight seniors to graduation, six of whom — tri-captains Nick Colacchio and Rusten, as well as Hirsh, Florio, Matt Haddad and J.B. Gerber — were regular starters.

Hirsh and Colacchio anchored a powerful defense that allowed only 14 goals in 16 games. Rusten led the team in goals with nine while Florio led the team with assists with four.

Gerber added five goals of his own this season, while Haddad ran opposing midfielders into the ground with his tireless effort.

"I'm proud of every person on this team, everyone showed an unprecedented dedication towards a collective goal," Rusten added. "The team will be even stronger next year, I have no doubt about it, and I'll be their number one fan."

Albert Bitici

John Sales '07 dives for the ball during Saturday's NESCAC championship game against the Williams Ephs.

Field hockey falls in NESCAC championship

Panthers mourn loss of perfect record but regroup for upcoming NCAAs

By Katie Flagg
Sports Editor

The previously undefeated field hockey team fell for the first time this season in Sunday's NESCAC Championship game, suffering a tough 4-3 loss in overtime to the Williams Ephs.

Even though the team will still advance to the NCAA tournament, they will take with them a newly-marred record and memories of their recent defeat.

Earlier in the weekend, the Panthers played Colby in the semi-finals. At the half, the Panthers led 1-0. In the second half, however, Ashley Pullen '05, Lauryn Nicasio '05 and Emily Enos '06 fired a series of successful shots, rocketing the team to a comfortable 4-0 victory.

Goalie Meghan McGillen '07 put in an especially impressive performance during the Colby match, making eight saves on her way to her fifth shutout of the season.

"We felt pretty good [about Saturday's game]," said Ashley Lyddane '06. "We came out pretty slow in the beginning, but by the second half we were playing a lot better. We were playing up to our level of game. We were happy to rack up the score and make it to the finals."

Saturday's triumph soon gave way to defeat, however, as the Panthers fell to Williams in the finals on Sunday. After playing the Ephs in the regular season, the team "knew Williams was going to come out strong," according to Reid Berrien '08.

Come out strong they did. Williams made two goals in the first half, initially leading 2-0. Middlebury trailed 2-1 going into the second half, and just managed to keep pace with the Ephs for the rest of the game.

With a little less than six minutes remaining, the Panthers still trailed by one. Berrien secured the team's spot in overtime, however, by capitalizing on a penalty to score with 5:42 remaining.

"It was awesome," said Berrien. "All we wanted was to get into overtime. When it went into overtime it definitely gave us a little more hope."

She continued, "We never gave up, especially in overtime. We just couldn't finish."

The Panthers had a few chances early in overtime, but with 8:05 left, Williams took both the game and the NESCAC conference title.

Lyddane characterized the game as "messy," noting that the Williams offense capitalized neatly on the Panthers' mistakes.

At the heart of Middlebury's loss, though, was an impressive performance from Williams' goalie Wendy Stone. While the Panthers out shot the Ephs 35-16, Stone made a solid 13 saves for her team.

Despite Sunday's loss, Middlebury will host the NCAA Division III quarterfinals this weekend. "It's always good to play on our home field," said Berrien, "especially in the NCAAs."

"It's a relief to get the home field advantage," said Lyddane. "It's a huge advantage."

The team seems determined to prevent the loss to Williams from shattering their confidence entering the NCAAs.

"It's hard to lose," said Berrien, "but we've gotten our one loss over for the season, hopefully, and hopefully we can make it to the finals of the NCAAs."

Some team members, like Lyddane, have noticed the silver lining in Sunday's defeat.

"Last year we went to the [NCAA] tournament with no losses, and this year, having one loss under our belt makes us a stronger team," she said. "We don't like the feeling of losing, and we need to strive to be better."

The team has its work cut out for it, though. "We'll be preparing hard this week ... to make sure we're ready on Saturday," Berrien said. "We know that now it's win or go home. We know that we have to keep playing with that in mind."

Albert Bitici

Lauryn Nicasio '05 slips between two Colby opponents during Saturday's 2-1 Panthers' victory. The team fell 4-3 in overtime to Williams on Sunday.

Men's rugby defeats Iona in fierce territorial bid

By Sally Hartman
Staff Writer

Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y. played host to the men's rugby team this weekend in what proved to be an intense, athletically charged and well-deserved victory for the Panthers. With a final score of 16-12, Middlebury secured their spot in next weekend's continuation of the Territorial Championships, which is set to take place this Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Embarking on the five and a half hour car ride that would get them to New York in the first place was merely one disadvantage the Panthers would face. The pitch on which the Panthers would compete gave a new meaning to "home-field advantage." In contrast to Middlebury's 70'x100' field, Iona's spanned a mere 47' wide and 85' long. Naturally, Iona's style of play was tailored to the dimensions of their shrunken field. However, the Panthers wasted no time lamenting what initially appeared to be a misfortune. On the contrary, Middlebury capitalized on their solid defense and mental fortitude.

Head Coach Ward Patterson asserted that it was precisely the defense that put Middlebury ahead of their opponents. Contending that his team exhibited their best display of defense all year, Patterson said, "The field was so narrow that it was difficult to create a gap to run through. There was very little offensive motion. As a result, our defensive game became our most important asset."

The first 15 minutes of play were characteristically aggressive, and both teams fought for any edge they could muster. Early in the first quarter, Middlebury gave up three points on a penalty. Then with one minute left in the first half, Rob "Dutch" Hiensch '05 called for a drop kick that tied the game at three.

Emerging from the half with newfound vigor, the Panthers launched an aggressive attack, which resulted in a try from Pascal Losambe '07. Coupled with the two-point conversion, the Panthers charged ahead of Iona to lead by seven.

From that point on, the game was characterized by penalty kicks from fouls that were unavoidable by-products of concentrated, passionate and unrelenting play. The Panthers gave up three fouls and nine points, allowing Iona to surge to 12. However, they also answered the bell and fired back, resulting in six more points to add to the 10 they had already secured.

After 80 minutes of what Patterson described as "thumping, banging offense and defense," the Panthers once again emerged victorious. "Everybody had a huge game and there wasn't a guy on the field who didn't perform superbly," said Patterson.

In light of the club's record both this season and in years past, it would seem that superb performance is merely another drill that the Panthers are accustomed to practicing.

In the last four years, in fact, Middlebury has compiled 37 wins and only two losses. One of the two losses came earlier this year to Yale, who the Panthers will coincidentally face on Saturday at Amherst.

Whatever the outcomeas the Panthers continue to charge ahead in the Territorial Championships. It has become clear that they are more than content to meet and conquer whatever obstacles, disadvantages or challenges come their way.

Volleyball future looks promising

Continued from page 28

more suspenseful than the one before it — and maintained a tight score until the Panthers rallied together and finished the set 19-17. The victory was a tough one, and the Panthers showcased the skill and endurance that they have accumulated all year.

"[The Colby match] was a great way to end our season," said setter Laurie Wollin '05. "The team played well together and never gave up."

Last week, Wollin broke the previously held record for number of assists in a single season with a total of 987 — the highest since 2000. The NESCAC tournament brought her total up to 1054. She was full of praise and admiration for her fellow players, noting especially the excellent teamwork during the Colby match.

"I felt that I was able to count on any teammate at anytime for a side out or a kill," she said. "That's changed since the beginning of the season."

Departing seniors Wollin, Sydney Hartsock and Katy Hicks contributed valuable play to the team this year and will be greatly missed. In addition to Wollin's assists, Hicks' 303 total kills throughout the season and Hartsock's 230 added a tremendous amount of power to the Panthers' offense.

The roster remains strong for next season, however. Jamie Wong '06, an indispensable defender totaling 655 digs this year, will return for her senior season next fall.

Lacee Patterson '07, the offensive leader of the season with 326 kills, returns among others of the team's most valuable players.

The team's five first-years, Amy McCowan, Ellen Dickson, Christine Grimaldi, Lexie Fisher and Elizabeth Quinn, contributed considerable time, effort and dedication to their first season at Middlebury and have the potential to push the team even farther in 2005.

The Panthers improved not only their game and their skill but also their drive and their determination over a dynamic season and should be proud of their collective growth and progression as a team.

"We've talked a lot all season about making something happen, not just talking about it, not just giving lip service, but taking action and making something happen," Raunecker commented. "You just have to dig deep, and take it."

Another Look

BY DAVID FREEDMAN

Williams College was definitely gloating on Sunday afternoon. Our rivals down Route 7 South won four NESCAC championships — men's and women's soccer, field hockey and volleyball — all in one day, beating Middlebury for three of those titles. After walking away from women's soccer's heartbreaking loss in penalty kicks I was fairly annoyed that the school we love to beat — partly because they love to brag, partly because we want to raise the bar of athletic excellence they've set — could sweep us in every finals match-up. But then, a little boy, no older than seven or eight, walked past me and dejectedly blurted out, "Well, they still wear purple!"

How wise beyond his years this young man is. As strong as Williams' athletic program and pride may be, it's somewhat offset by how laughable their school colors and school mascot are. Does this make losing three championships any easier? No. But in a week where we have little to boast about I think this will garner some laughs, if not send some nerd over at the Williams' paper into a fit.

So why do I find the color purple funny? Picture yourself as a football player lining up across from some enormous line-man from Williams, cold-winter air streaming out of his nose, profanity flying from his mouth and long, graceful purple socks extending from his shoes. I'm not sure how many Williams parents would agree with me, but there's something intrinsically hilarious about watching any person over 250 pounds run around dressed in a majestic shade of purple. The image works in almost every sport Williams plays, especially women's lacrosse, where a super-fan Dad walks around with a cow suit and rattles a cow bell all damn day. It's hard to feel too bad about a loss to this team when you know some guy is driving home with udders on.

But Williams isn't the only school to have a crummy color scheme or mascot. Amherst shares the intimidating color purple as well, and has an even worse mascot — the Lord Jeff. The school didn't seem to have anything better to name the mascot after than its own founder, Lord Jeffrey Amherst. Conn. College is represented by the ferocious and aggressive Camel, a selection that's only redeemed by the fact that it gives the student body an excuse to yell out "Hump" on any occasion. Colby fans get the privilege of cheering on the powerful "Mules." I don't think I need to even try to mock this mascot. Tufts got its equally unathletic mascot, the "Jumbos," from a donation from Phineas T. Barnum — you know, from Barnum & Bailey's Circus. Hopefully the person who shelled out 50 million to the College last year doesn't have any grand designs for our Panther.

The moral of the story is some days Middlebury is going to lose and maybe even lose pretty badly. But at least on those days, when our teams come trudging off the field of play, they don't have to hear their parents and fans say, "good job Purple" or "Wayta' fight Camels."

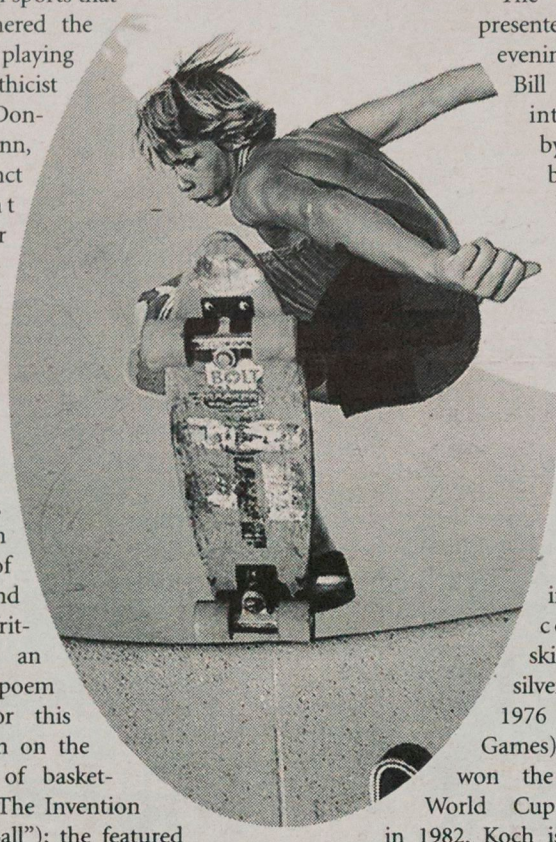
The liberal arts approach to sports

Second annual athletics symposium innovative, inspiring

By Andrea Gissing
Editor-in-Chief

The clusters of people standing around talking were silenced by the sound of bluegrass being played by a lone violinist standing before the podium on the stage of Dana Auditorium. The violinist, alumni Caleb Elder '04, was joined on stage by Ellen Smith '05 who started moving to the music, incorporating stretching poses and other recognizably athletic movements into her dance. She moved offstage and was replaced by two other dancers, Kate Stamper '04.5 and Alex Rhinehart '05 who performed their exercise-like dance at the front of the auditorium while Smith continued dancing in the aisle in front of the projector. Elder continued to improvise as the dancers gyrated, stretched and displayed their athleticism to open the Second Annual Symposium on Perspiration and Inspiration.

This year's program, entitled "Sports and Innovation," explored the issue of developments in sports that have furthered the athletic playing field. Bioethicist Linda McDonald Glenn, an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Vermont, spoke about genetically-enhanced athletes; Jay Parini, D. E. Axinn professor of English and Creative Writing read an original poem written for this symposium on the invention of basketball (see "The Invention of Basketball"); the featured speaker, Olympian and World Cup Champion Bill Koch talked about how skate skiing was pioneered as well as the development of "sand skiing," a personal innovation of his; Professor of Dance Andrea Olsen performed a solo dance; the program concluded with a screening of the award-winning film on the birth of modern skateboarding, "Dogtown and Z-Boys."



"Innovation is not necessarily the first subject that comes to mind," said Bill McKibben, scholar in residence in Environmental Studies and organizer of the symposium, talking about associations people draw with athletics. However, as shown through the night's presenters the power of innovation has strong influences on the field of athletics.

Glenn, the first presenter of the night, explored what the athlete of the future might look like as the sci-fi world of genetic enhancement becomes a reality. "Should genetic enhancement be permissible for athletes?" she asked during her talk. "If not, how can it be prevented?"

McKibben echoed her question, by stating that for him, athletics is a type of journey of self-discovery. If an athlete uses genetic enhancement to improve his or her athletic performance, can they ever know if it "was [the athlete] who did it, or was it the genetic enhancement that succeeded?"

The featured presenter of the evening was Bill Koch, introduced by McKibben as "a legend in his own time." Koch is the only American to have won an Olympic medal in cross-country skiing (a silver, in the 1976 Winter Games) and he won the Nordic World Cup circuit in 1982. Koch is usually considered the one who pioneered the use of skate skiing. However he attributes his success to the fact that, "[he] came into cross-country skiing during an amazing period of time for the sport."

"I'm just an average guy," Koch explained, "not some super specimen who can go out and kick the asses of great athletes. I had to cook up some stuff to get where I wanted to go." What Koch cooked up was a new style of cross-country skiing. He is quick to give credit of the style to Gerhard Grimmer, a German skier who was the first to use the skating technique to win a World Cup race in 1974. Koch himself did not start skating in races until 1982, at which point the cross-country world was turned on its head as more and more skiers realized that it was for real.

Courtesy

U.S. Olympic medalist Bill Koch did everything he could to make himself a better skier. He invented sand skiing as a way of offseason training.

Koch's love for his sport shows through in the innovations he brought to cross-country skiing. "I live and breathe [cross-country skiing] every day, even in the summertime," he said, describing the lengths he went to train year-round. "I would ski on anything, pine needles, gravel pits." On one trip to Hawaii he brought skis with him, thinking to try skiing there. "On this sand I could skate, even without poles," he said, explaining that the tropical sand differed from sand found elsewhere because it didn't contain ground up rock.

To conclude the first half of the symposium, Olsen's performance seemed to embody the theme of innovation and discovery. Her dance was comprised of shorter, quick movements punctuated by statements making observations of movements and athleticism.

After a short break, the auditorium darkened and "Dogtown and Z-Boys" began screening. The 2001 documentary directed by Stacy Peralta and narrated by Sean Penn described the birth of modern skateboarding in Southern California in the '70s. It followed the Zephyr surf team, the best surfers in the Dogtown area of Santa Monica who took to skateboarding when they weren't riding waves.

As reporter Craig Stecyk, who documented the Dogtown skating movement wrote, "[the Zephyr skaters] allowed the minds of 11-year olds to see their potential." Though long, "Dogtown and Z-Boys" was an inspiring film that left the audience amazed at what could be accomplished by those who did what they loved to do. During the drought of '76 they took over empty swimming pools to practice skate boarding.

As Koch said, "Innovation is tied with the power of the mind, it can manifest itself in so many ways," which explains how athletes have been able to push themselves past what was believed to be possible.

"Humans haven't scratched the surface of what their potential is," Koch continued. "So much is belief, whether or not you truly believe you can achieve the goals you set for yourself."

THE INVENTION OF BASKETBALL

Out of nothing, something.

There was first an empty whirling space,
an unlined universe
in which there whirled an absence
that had yet to find its definition.

All the world was unworld, wordless,
unexamined, wild with time
unmeasured and unticked, eternity

like what must happen when you wait
without a purpose,
sitting at the bus stop night long
and without a journey even to imagine
let alone begin.

Ex nihilo, the world began.
With what in retrospect seems shrewdly planned,
the days ran forward from a shapeless
putty-fingered dawn to fullest noon,
then slipped though afternoon to evening
and to rich black sky, a billion stars,
to dreams that dazzle and suggest a way
for action, story, play-by-play,
the ritual and often righteous struggle
through our works and days.

So basketball
began from nothing you could guess,
though Dr. Naismith saw an order, saw
a principle, a flow, an active flash
of pass and dribble, pass and go,
the arc of everyone's attention well-directed
as the single ball achieves the height
of its fine arc then sweeps through nothingness
defined by hoops and netting.

First there was a space, then definition.
Days and weeks, then months and years.
The world was by imaginary limits
held to time, the ticking clock, the quarters
of the game – with one great pause –
the half-time rest that gives a coach
a further chance to reconsider
what the story sounds like, where it's going,
to affect the outcome
by a few stern words, a few soft pats
upon the backs of sweaty players
who must test themselves again against
the rules that Dr. Naismith
found so natural, a proper test
of wit and muscle, poise and patience,
waiting for the buzzer, which will have its meaning
well beyond mere victory or loss.

This sport, like every sport, is spirit
in the world of matter testing time.

Time tells you nothing can be lost,
that every action is a lively choice,
with pick and roll, rebound, recovery,
with every jump-shot, dunk, free throw
reality itself is found or even founded:
point and counterpoint becoming world.

— Jay Parini, D. E. Axinn Professor of English & Creative writing

Women's soccer falls in PKs

By Simon Behan
Staff Writer

For the second time in two years, Williams defeated the Middlebury women's soccer team in penalty kicks. Last year the Panthers lost a first round match against the Ephs, but this year the loss came in the NESCAC final game. Despite the heartbreaking loss, Middlebury secured a spot in the NCAA tournament with an at-large bid. This will be the first NCAA appearance in four years for the women's soccer team.

At the start of the tournament, the Middlebury Panthers held a record of 13-0-2 and the number one ranking for the NESCAC tournament, which gave them the home-field advantage throughout the tournament. Coming into the tournament, the team knew capturing the conference title would be difficult as two key players, Mayo Fujii '05 and Erin Pittenger '07, were out due to injury.

The semifinal draw pitted the Panthers against seventh seeded Conn. College, fresh off a shocking upset against number two seeded Amherst. From the outset it was clear Conn. College was not going to go down without a serious fight. They outshot Middlebury 7-5 in the first half and senior tri-captain Els Van Woert had to be on top form to keep the Camels at bay, finishing the day with eight saves overall.

The second half saw much better play from Middlebury, as they controlled the ball early and often. Nothing separated the two sides when the whistle blew at the end of 90 minutes.

Brittany Cronin '05 started the first overtime brightly with a rasping drive that was brilliantly saved by the Conn. College goalkeeper. Finally with just over two minutes left in the second overtime, Cronin stepped up and tucked a shot behind the Conn. College goaltender. The win sent the Panthers to the NESCAC final.

The Ephs awaited the Panthers in the final after defeating Bowdoin 1-0. Earlier in the year the Panthers traveled to Williams and beat them 1-0, so hopes were high heading into this tense encounter.

The game started at a frantic pace with both sides desperate to claim the NESCAC title. It was Middlebury who struck first in the eleventh minute. Kim Walker '07 latched onto an in-swinging corner kick from Laura Kwoh '07 and headed it past the despairing goalkeeper. Kwoh's corner kicks have caused havoc in opposing teams defenses all season long.

It did not take the Ephs long to respond as they got on the scoreboard just five minutes later to tie the game 1-1. Each team fought hard throughout the game and into overtime.

After two overtimes and the game still tied, the winner would have to be determined by penalty kicks. Unfortunately the Panthers were unable to convert against the impressive Williams goalkeeper and eventually lost 3-1 in the contest.

While the Panthers are disappointed at the loss, they can take pride in the effort they have put into this season's campaign. Hopefully their at-large bid will keep their dreams of a National Championship alive.

Albert Bitici

Annie Llyod '06 cuts in front of her opponent during Saturday's match up against Conn. College. The Panthers won the game 1-0 in double overtime, but lost in the NESCAC finals in penalty kicks to Williams on Sunday.

Runners ready for regionals

By Stacey Wong
Staff Writer

The Middlebury men's cross country team showed its resilience this weekend, rebounding from a disappointing showing at the NESCAC Championships for a solid fifth place finish at the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships. The meet, held at the Tufts University campus, featured 34 Division III teams from the New England area.

Captain Jonathan Erwin '05 turned in his best performance of the season to lead the Panthers. His finishing time of 27:34 was good enough for seventh place overall. Junior Matt Horesta was the second Panther to finish and placed 35th overall. The third scoring Middlebury runner was Neal Dignum '07 at 40th place. David Barker '06 and Chris Pelliccia '07 rounded out the Panther top five.

"I am very happy with the team's performance," said Erwin. "We finished fifth overall, which is an improvement over the sixth place finish from last year."

Tufts, ranked fifth in D-III, took first place and 10th-ranked Williams placed second. Middlebury entered the meet in search of redemption following their seventh place finish at the NESCAC Championships. While they could not catch the top two, they managed to beat out four other teams that finished ahead of them at NESCACs: Wesleyan, Amherst, Connecticut College and Bates. They did so without the help of several of their best runners who sat the meet out.

Erwin had been sidelined with plantar fascitis and a sprained ankle for much of the season. "It's great to be competing again," he said. "[Earlier in the season] I had really wanted to do everything I could to help this team improve, especially when I noticed how well everyone else was running early in the season. My first few races back I was running significantly slower than last season, but after this weekend I'm close to running at the level I was at last year, which was a great year for me."

Up next for the men is the NCAA Regional meet in Portland, Maine. The meet should be hotly contested, with the top teams advancing to the NCAA Championship race. The men will once again try to finish ahead of other NESCAC schools and improve on their 12th place finish at NCAA Regionals last year.

"We are definitely psyched for Regionals," Erwin said. "Besides NESCACs, this is the biggest meet of the year for us. We are 100 percent confident that we can defeat some of the teams that beat us at NESCACs. We are hoping to be in the top five for NESCAC teams at the meet, and are looking for one of the best finishes at Regionals that Middlebury men's cross country has had in a long time. I think that there is also a good possibility that some of our top individuals will qualify for the NCAA Championship meet."

The team has been preparing for this meet for several weeks. "We have been in a taper phase for the past couple weeks now, which means that we have reduced our mileage by a little each week so that our legs are extra fresh for race day," said Erwin. "This week will be a real easy week for us. Everyone has trained exceptionally hard this year, and now we just need to rest our legs, get some good sleep, eat right and let everything fall into place on Saturday."

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY KATIE FLAGG AND DANIEL INADOMI

Ski lodge undergoes face lift

The first snowfall of the season has come and gone, which means that winter is right around the corner. In preparation for the upcoming ski season, renovations and additions to the Neil Starr Ski Lodge are wrapping up at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl. An anonymous donor who specifically wanted a renovation of Starr Lodge spurred funding for the $2.25 million project that began in May. Alumni and friends of the College also made contributions towards the project.

Starr Lodge, also called the Starr Shelter, was built in 1962, and is a popular lounge space for students, faculty and townspeople while at the Snow Bowl. Just about every aspect of Starr Lodge will be improved and expanded. The lodge will increase by about 3,300 square feet from 7,500 to 10,800 square feet. The main difference is that seating will increase by 75, bringing the capacity to about 300 people.

The many other improvements include upgraded plumbing and electrical systems, an enlarged ski shop, an expanded cafeteria and a new race-timing room. Full-length glass windows with a clear view of the base of the race hill on the Allen Trail and space for four to five people with timing equipment and computer monitors have been added to aid in the regulation of races and practices.

Restrooms, a functional fireplace and an outdoor ticket sales booth have also been added. The renovated Starr Lodge is set to open on Dec. 10.

Albert Bitici

Midd hosts NCAA tourneys

Middlebury plays host to two NCAA tournaments this week as field hockey and women's soccer teams meet in regional tournaments. Women's soccer took to the field yesterday, Nov. 10 as the Middlebury Panthers played Simmons at 1 p.m. on Dragone Field. Results were not known at time of press.

The field hockey tournament begins Saturday, Nov. 13. The Panthers (15-1) play Wesley (17-3) at 10 a.m. This game will be followed by a 1 p.m. game on Kohn Field. Juniata (14-4) meets Cortland State (15-2) in another regional match.

The winners of these two games will meet in the NCAA third round match on Sunday, Nov. 14. Winners will advance to the NCAA semifinals, which will be held on Nov. 19 in Westfield, Mass. The NCAA Championship game is scheduled for Nov. 20, also in Westfield.

NESCAC honors Hutzler

After garnering eight solo tackles and 11 assisted tackles during Saturday's 29-13 victory over Hamilton College, junior linebacker Coleman Hutzler has been named the NESCAC defensive player of the week. One sack and three tackles for a loss highlight a performance during which the Panthers surrendered a season low thirteen points.

Hutzler has been a key member of the Panther defense and special teams unit thus far this season. Against Hamilton, Hutzler blocked a punt deep in Hamilton's end of the field for a safety to increase the team's lead to 26-7. Through seven games Hutzler leads the team with 66 tackles and three sacks on the season. He also has one forced fumble and one interception.

The Panthers (3-4) will attempt to level their record to .500 this Saturday against Tufts (2-5) in the season finale. The game will be played at Alumni Stadium at 12:30 p.m.

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GAMES TO WATCH

FIELD HOCKEY
VS. WESLEY
NOV. 13 | 10am | HOME

FOOTBALL
VS. TUFTS
NOV. 13 | 12:30pm | HOME

campus sports

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2004

Middlebury runs down Hamilton 29-13

By Blake Saville
Staff Writer

The Middlebury Panthers traveled to Hamilton College on Saturday and came away with a 29-13 victory. The Panthers scored early and often in a game where they never trailed. Their record is now 3-4.

It was a career defining game for Middlebury quarterback Mike Keenan '05 and wide receiver Tom Cleaver '05. Both players broke Middlebury school records on Saturday. Keenan set the school record for most career passing yards with 4,338. Cleaver is the new Middlebury receiving-yardage leader with 1,846 career-receiving yards.

In uncharacteristic fashion, Middlebury got off to a quick start. Hamilton got the ball to start the game, but on just their second play from scrimmage the Panther defense forced a fumble and recovered it at the Continental's 20-yard line. It took Keenan just four plays to find the end zone as he connected on a 10-yard scoring strike to Cleaver to make the score 7-0.

After trading punts, Keenan and the Middlebury offense got back to work with 6:45 left in the first quarter and sustained another scoring drive. Keenan again found Cleaver on a 42-yard pass that set the Panthers up at the Hamilton one-yard line. Senior running back Eric Shanley ran it in from there to make the score 14-0.

Midway through the second quarter the Middlebury offense put together another long drive that was aided by a Hamilton penalty. On a third and eight the Continentals appeared to have stopped the Panther advance, but a 10-yard holding penalty gave Middlebury a first down and the drive continued.

Sophomore running back Stefan Hrdina rushed for 27 yards on the drive and Keenan again found Cleaver on a 33-yard scoring strike to make it 21-0 at halftime. It was arguably the most dominating half for the Panthers this season.

File Photo/Albert Bitici

Mike Keenan '05 prepares to complete a pass during Saturday's game. In addition to helping the Panthers secure a solid win against Hamilton, Keenan broke a Middlebury record for most career passing yards with an impressive 4,338 yards. The team plays again at home Saturday.

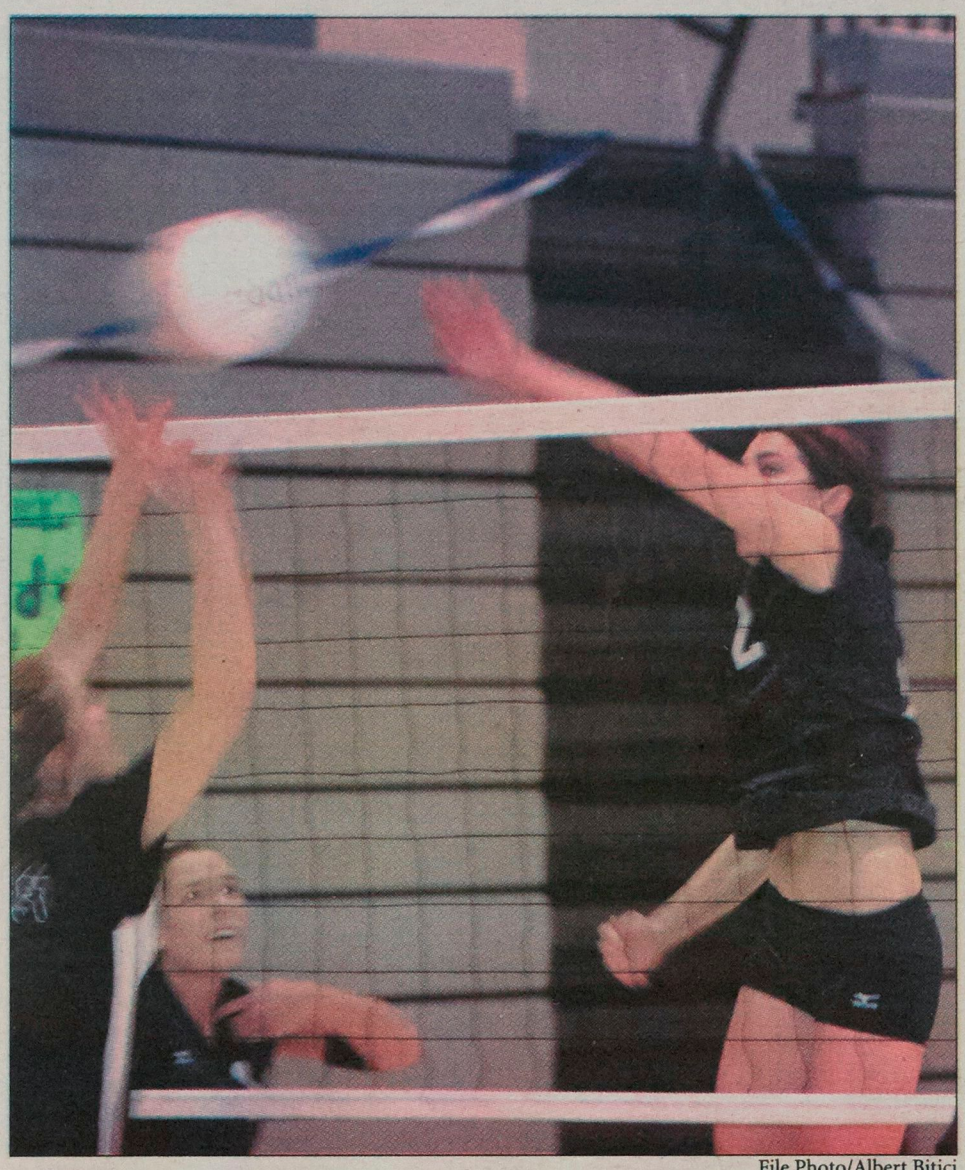
The Middlebury offense carried the momentum into the second half, opening up with another long, time-consuming march. Keenan completed three passes on the drive and the Panthers accumulated 29 yards on the ground over five minutes and 29 seconds. Middlebury kicker Steve Hauschka '07 capped the drive with a 25-yard field goal to make the score 24-0.

Hamilton finally got on the scoreboard in the third quarter when quarterback Brandon Holtslag ran the ball in from two yards out with 4:38 remaining.

Later in the period linebacker Coleman Hutzler '06 blocked a Continental punt that went through the end zone for a safety to make the score 26-7. Hutzler had a huge day on the defensive end with 19 tackles to go along with the safety.

Hamilton found the end zone again late in the fourth period to narrow the gap. The Panthers played a great first half of football and took control of this game early — something that Middlebury has not done on a consistent basis this season. Middlebury garnered 143 yards on the ground and the run first mentality helped open up the passing game on second and third downs. Keenan finished with 203 yards passing, 128 of those yards going to his favorite target Cleaver.

All in all, it was a convincing win by the Panthers. The team hopes they can carry that momentum into the final game of the season here at home, this Saturday, against Tufts.



File Photo/Albert Bitici

First-year Lexie Fisher sends a volleyball soaring across the net towards her opponents.

Vball loses NESCAC semifinal to Williams

By Sarah Luehrman
Staff Writer

The Panthers' volleyball season ended this weekend with their 11th appearance at the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) championship tournament at Williams College.

In the first phase of the tournament on Nov. 5, Middlebury defeated fifth seed Colby 3-2 in a thrillingly close match and then faced formidable first seed Williams, who beat the Panthers 3-0 and went on to win the tournament with a 3-0 victory over Tufts. Overall, the Panthers had very good season, closing with a 7-3 NESCAC record and a 20-12 record overall.

The semifinals loss to Williams on Saturday was tough, but the Ephs earned it over three swift games, 16-30, 14-30 and 22-30. Middlebury played well in the third game, leading Williams early, but the Ephs came back to end the match.

"We started to block and dig them, and that allowed us to stay tighter with them," commented Head Coach Sarah Raunecker. "I thought we played very well."

The Panthers showed how hard practice and smart play have served them this season on the previous evening in their match against Colby over five intensely played games of good volleyball. The teams, seeded fourth and fifth respectively, were extremely closely matched, and anyone would have been hard pressed to predict a victor at the beginning of the match.

"They are prone to making a lot of mistakes," said Raunecker, "and it really came down to which team was going to make fewer mistakes." The Panthers easily took the first set with great playing, 19-30. They played a strong second set as well, but the team's focus began to dwindle slightly and the Mules began to play a more aggressive game. Though the end was close and hard fought, Colby claimed the set 29-31.Games three and four "were just incredible," said Raunecker, full of praise for her team's performance throughout the match. Both sets were extremely close — the lead bouncing back and forth throughout.

The third game went to Colby, 21-30. Down two games to one at the beginning of the fourth, the Panthers knew that they needed this victory to stay in the tournament, and they fought for it, pulling out the win 35-33.

"We had several rallies to tie it, and several rallies to win it before we came away with the win in that 4th game," said Raunecker. "It can get pretty tough when it's that close because one error can make or break it for you at that point."

With the score tied 2-2, the Panthers and the Mules advanced into the fifth set. Middlebury took an early lead, but Colby came right back and tied the game at 11-11. From that point on, the teams traded points — each

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